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FBIS-EAS-91-225 CONTENTS *21 November 1991*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

- Thai Prime Minister Addresses ASEAN Solons *[Bangkok Radio]* 1
- Dailies on Malaysia's Criticism of U.S. Policy *[Jakarta MERDEKA 11 Nov, etc.]* 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- Miyazawa: Bush Visit To 'Cement' Partnership *[KYODO]* 2
- Joint Defense Relationship With U.S. Reviewed *[KYODO]* 2
- Cabinet Secretary on Possible U.S.-EC Accord *[Tokyo TV]* 3
- Takeshita Calls for Compromise on Rice Issue *[KYODO]* 4
- German Economics Minister Meets Officials 4
  - Seeks Concessions on Rice *[KYODO]* 4
  - States Support for Territories Claim *[KYODO]* 4
- Foreign Minister on 'Understanding' for UN Bill *[KYODO]* 5
- Current DPRK Normalization Talks Conclude 5
  - Agree To Meet in Jan *[KYODO]* 5
  - Discuss 'Good Neighbor' Treaty *[KYODO]* 6
- Defense Agency Official Explains Policy Thrust *[Seoul CHOSON ILBO 17 Nov]* 6
- Report on East Timorese Shooting 'Inconclusive' *[KYODO]* 7
- Fisheries Agency Plans Cuts in Trawlnet Fishing *[KYODO]* 7
- SDP Chairman Addresses Trade Union Convention *[KYODO]* 7

North Korea

- Cheney Said To 'Incite a War Fever' in South *[KCNA]* 8
- Official Renews Call for U.S. Nuclear Pullout *[KYODO]* 8
- U.S. Military Exercises Reported *[KCNA]* 8
- Delegation Head Reports on Talks With Japan *[KCNA]* 9
- Israel's Settlement Program Criticized *[KCNA]* 9
- South Students Protest Joint Security Meeting *[KCNA]* 10
- South Using 'Smear Campaign' on Nuclear Weapons *[KCNA]* 10
- KCNA Reviews 21 Nov Pyongyang Press 11

South Korea

- Defense Minister Meets U.S. Secretary Cheney 12
  - Discuss Nuclear Issues *[YONHAP]* 12
  - Students Declare 'Anti-American Week' *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Nov]* 12
- No Tae-u Sees No 'Drastic' U.S. Troop Cutbacks *[YONHAP]* 12
- No Tae-u To Verify Nuclear Pullout by Jan *[YONHAP]* 13
- U.S. Urged To Push Japan Arms Reduction *[TONG-A ILBO 19 Nov]* 13
- USSR Asks Help To Privatize Military Industry *[YONHAP]* 14
- Foreign Minister Greets USSR's Shevardnadze *[YONHAP]* 14
- Buddhist Leader Visits PRC, Proposes Exchanges *[YONHAP]* 14
- EC Welcomes No Tae-u's Non-Nuclear Declaration *[YONHAP]* 14
- Sides Discuss Compromise Proposals at S-N Talks *[HANGUK ILBO 21 Nov]* 14
- Details Finalized for S-N Women's Meeting *[YONHAP]* 15
- Government Prepares To Release Jailed Dissidents *[YONHAP]* 15
- Military Briefs Dissidents on U.S. Treaty *[YONHAP]* 15

- Lawmaker Inaugurates New Opposition Party *[THE KOREA HERALD 20 Nov]* 16
- * Chon Appears To Make Political Moves 16
  - * Forms Mountain Climbing Club *[HANGYORE SINMUN 8 Sep]* 16
  - Chongwadae Watches Chon *[HANGYORE SINMUN 8 Sep]* 18
- Planning Minister Outlines New Economic Program *[YONHAP]* 19
- Automakers Suffer Sharp Setback in U.S. Market *[YONHAP]* 20

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

- PRC Aerospace Minister, Delegation End Visit *[Rangoon Radio]* 21
- Agriculture Minister Returns From Rome Meeting *[Rangoon Radio]* 21

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

- Last Vietnamese Refugees Leave Bidong Camp *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 21
- King Hosts Banquet for Singapore President 19 Nov *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 21
- Mahathir on Conditions for Attending Earth Summit *[BERNAMA]* 21
- Envoy Questions UN's Environmental 'Commitment' *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 22
- Deputy Minister on PAS's Judicial Challenge *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 22

Singapore

- Hong Kong Governor Notes 'Friendly' Rivalry *[Singapore Radio]* 22
- Malaysian King Fetes President; Speeches Cited *[Singapore Radio]* 23
- Prime Minister at People's Action Party Meeting *[THE STRAITS TIMES 18 Nov]* 23
- Minister Says Foreign Media Ties 'Improving' *[THE STRAITS TIMES 19 Nov]* 24
- Shipping Company To Start SRV Services in Dec *[THE STRAITS TIMES 18 Nov]* 25
- Growth Rate Continues Slowdown in 3rd Quarter *[THE STRAITS TIMES 16 Nov]* 25

Cambodia

- Sihanouk: Peace in Nation Still Very Fragile *[Radio VGNUFC]* 26
- Sihanouk, Chea Sim Visit Exhibition Hall 19 Nov *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 26
- Sihanouk Receives British Envoy's Credentials *[SPK]* 27
- Hun Sen, Ranariddh Speak at Signing of Alliance *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27
- Thai Foreign Minister Asa Arrives in Phnom Penh *[AFP]* 28
  - Calls on Prince Sihanouk *[Bangkok TV]* 28
  - Urges Fair Business Dealings *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 21 Nov]* 29
  - Refugee Memorandum Signed 21 Nov *[SPK]* 30
  - Medicines, Aid Provided to SNC *[SPK]* 30
- Japanese, Thais Reported Probing for Investments *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 19 Nov]* 30
- Banker Warns Foreign Investors About Problems *[AFP]* 31
- Relations With PRC Said Improved Since Accord *[Bangkok THE NATION 20 Nov]* 33
- Ties With Laos Seen 'Withering' in Past Months *[Bangkok THE NATION 19 Nov]* 34
- CPP Issues Instructions on Sihanouk, Changes *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 35
- Sihanouk Calls Hun Sen 'Remarkable Leader' *[SPK]* 36
- KPNLF's Son Sann, Ieng Mouli Arrive 21 Nov *[Radio VOK]* 37
  - Son Sann Makes Arrival Statement *[KYODO]* 37
- Article Examines Need for Sihanouk's Role *[Bangkok THE NATION 15 Nov]* 37
- Total Vietnamese Troop Withdrawal Urged *[Radio VGNUFC]* 38
- Meeting Between Sihanouk, U.S.'s Twining Noted *[Radio VGNUFC]* 39

Indonesia

- Army Said Readying 'Major' Offensive in E. Timor 39
  - Dili Airport Reported Closed *[Lisbon Radio]* 39
  - Resistance Warns of Army Action *[Lisbon International]* 39

Sutrisno Says E. Timor Open for Red Cross Visit *[ANTARA]* 40
Suharto Leaves for 25-Day Foreign Trip *[Jakarta Radio]* 40

Philippines

Officials Awaiting U.S. Reply to Note on Bases *[BUSINESS WORLD 20 Nov]* 40
Aborigines Demand Return of Bases Lands *[Manila Radio]* 40
Senator Sees U.S. Interference in 1992 Elections *[Quezon City Radio]* 41
Manglapus Views Middle East Peace Conference *[MANILA BULLETIN 21 Nov]* 41
Rebel Air Force General Zumel Said Missing *[Manila Radio]* 41
Abadia Dismisses Honasan's New Coup Threat *[Manila Radio]* 41
'Manhunt' for Rebel Soldiers To Start 24 Nov *[Manila Radio]* 42
Rebel Soldiers' Spokesman Warns of 'Revolution' *[Manila Radio]* 42
Rebel Returnees Said Cooperating With Military *[Quezon City Radio]* 42
Abadia Denies Holding Talks With Communists *[Manila Radio]* 42
Government Stance on Muslim Secessionism Viewed *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 19 Nov]* 43
Anti-Insurgency Campaign Displaces 2000 in Davao *[PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM 13 Nov]* . 43
Ramos, Fernan Agree To Form 1992 Ticket *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 20 Nov]* 44

Thailand

Prime Minister Seeks Limit to Number of Senators *[THE NATION 21 Nov]* 45
Assembly Agrees To Ban on Corrupt Politicians *[THE NATION 21 Nov]* 45
Assembly To Retain Existing Electoral System *[THE NATION 21 Nov]* 46
  Decision Undermines Samakkhi Tham Party *[THE NATION 21 Nov]* 47
Suchinda Dismisses Speculation on Dumping Draft *[BANGKOK POST 20 Nov]* 48
Bangkok Governor Opposes Draft Constitution *[BANGKOK POST 19 Nov]* 48
Port Offers Importers Space for Bonded Warehouse *[BANGKOK POST 19 Nov]* 49
Proper Investigation of E. Timor Shootings Urged *[BANGKOK POST 18 Nov]* 49

Vietnam

Text of Do Muoi 22 Oct Ho Chi Minh City Speech *[NHAN DAN 23 Oct]* 50
VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 19 Nov 59
VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 20 Nov 59

ASEAN Wants Japan Involved in Cooperation

OW2211021491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0138 GMT 22 Nov 91

[By Siti Rahil Dollah]

[Text] Singapore, Nov. 22 KYODO—Officials and business people in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), wary of protectionist blocs emerging in the West, want Japan to play a more responsible role in economic leadership of the region.

For the booming economies of ASEAN, that means supporting their efforts at regional economic cooperation, investing and trading more with the region, and generally treating them as equals.

These hopes were expressed at an annual meeting in Singapore on Thursday of some 170 business people from Japan and ASEAN, which groups Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei. The meeting was first initiated 17 years ago by the Japan Association of Corporate Executives.

ASEAN nations, fearful that the birth of the North American Free Trade Area and the single European market will divert attention away from their region, are increasingly looking toward Japan, their main investor and trading partner.

"With Japan facing pressure from the United States and Europe to open up its market at a more rapid pace, it will be mutually beneficial for ASEAN and Japan to move toward greater economic integration," said Chandra Das, a Singaporean member of parliament and the meeting's chairman.

Besides being one of the largest investors in ASEAN, Japan overtook the United States as the group's leading trading partner last year when trade between them reached 60 billion U.S. dollars.

But Japan's lack of enthusiasm for the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), a forum engineered by Malaysia to counter perceived threats of protectionism from the West and foster greater economic cooperation, has disenchanted some people in Asia.

Malaysia's top investment official, Zainal Abidin Sulong, expressed unhappiness with Japan's reluctance to join the group, which officials feel is mainly due to Japan's fear of increasing trade friction with the U.S., which is excluded from and strongly opposed to the group.

Zainal, chairman of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, said ASEAN sees Japan as a growth leader and would want to work closely with Tokyo, but that such an economic leadership role would carry several basic and obvious responsibilities.

"Japan simply cannot shirk these responsibilities," he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, in a rare message to Thursday's conference, did not mention the EAEC, reiterating instead Japan's viewpoint that regional economic initiatives should be consistent with the principles of free trade.

But, stressing the importance of the region, he urged the delegates to discuss ways in which Japan could assist in intra-ASEAN cooperation and the promotion of "localization," technology transfers and human resources by Japanese companies in the region.

"Sincere assurances from our Japanese colleagues that ASEAN is still an important target area for investment and trade will be very much appreciated," said Mohammad Sadli, secretary general of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said the inclusion of Mexico in the North American Free Trade Area has fueled fears that it will result in a trade barrier against goods from ASEAN.

"Perhaps Japan should encourage the still rather timid proclamations of ASEAN to move toward a free trade area," he said.

Other common complaints include the restricted access to the Japanese market, slow transfer of technologies and promotion of local staff to managerial levels.

ASEAN business people privately say that as the region prospers and local firms aspire to merge across the region to form multinational companies, many Japanese firms fear the region will become their competitor.

"Some Japanese businessmen have looked at their Korean experience and vowed that ASEAN will not be allowed to become another Korea," observed Singaporean businessman Ho Kwong Ping.

"But it would be foolish and shortsighted of Japanese firms to thwart the growth of ASEAN multinational corporations because of the fear that they will one day become competitors," said Ho, president of Wah Chang International Corp.

"ASEAN business cooperation with Japan is progressing well, but greater ASEAN intra-regional cooperation, particularly between ASEAN firms, will not threaten the Japan-ASEAN relationship," he said.

Whether or not the EAEC materializes, "Japan's strategic political and economic interests have to dictate that one of its top priorities must be harmonious political and economic interests with its southern neighbors," he said.

Echoing other delegates, he added the Japanese unwillingness to transfer technology or management skills is still resented by local people.

Japanese companies, however, say that language barriers, lack of qualified personnel and job-hopping hinders Japanese firms from transferring technology and promoting local staff.

Japan

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney Arrives 22 Nov

OW2211022091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0202 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney arrived Friday morning in Tokyo for a two-day visit, following his trip to Seoul, where he attended the 23rd U.S.-South Korea Security Consultative Meeting.

Cheney is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Defense Agency Chief Sohei Miyashita later Friday, and with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Saturday.

Discusses DPRK Nuclear Potential

OW2211052191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0509 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Friday that North Korea's potential to have nuclear weapons is "one of the most dangerous and destabilizing imaginable."

"The military balance on the Korean peninsula is already delicate," he said in a speech at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

He said, "The very real danger of North Korea's nuclear proliferation is now the No. 1 threat to security in Northeast Asia."

Cheney made the remarks after a trip to South Korea, where he and South Korean defense officials agreed to postpone the second phase of a plan to pull out U.S. troops. He arrived in Japan earlier Friday for a two-day visit.

Watanabe on Delay in U.S. Troop Cut in ROK

OW2211040791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said on Friday the postponement of the second phase of planned U.S. troop withdrawals from South Korea would be helpful in facilitating Japan-North Korea normalization talks and also in pressing Pyongyang to accept international nuclear inspection.

Watanabe said at a press conference following a cabinet meeting: "North Korea's stance (on international nuclear inspection) is still obscure. The postponement is essential for promoting negotiations (on nuclear inspection)."

The foreign minister also disclosed that U.S. Embassy officials had briefed him on the agreement between the United States and South Korea.

U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and his South Korean counterpart Yi Chong-ku issued the joint communique Thursday at the end of two-day security talks between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Views DPRK Issue

OW2211114591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Japan's sensitive history on the Korean peninsula forces it to use a softer tone than other countries on North Korea's refusal to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Spokesman Taizo Watanabe offered that explanation in a meeting with foreign correspondents, who asked him why Japan's rhetoric about the possibility of a North Korean nuclear weapons program is restrained compared to such countries as the United States.

"You must know the difference in the historical relations between North Korea and Japan, and North Korea and the United States," Watanabe said, alluding to Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

"Japan has been trying to explain our position relating to what we have done toward Korean people in the peninsula, while at the same time trying to express our apprehension about the nuclear danger," he said.

"Those two considerations make our approach a little bit different from the United States maybe, but that does not mean that our purposes are different," he said. "I think in effect we are giving the same message to North Korea."

Watanabe denied that Japan is convinced North Korea is constructing a plutonium reprocessing plant, as the U.S. and South Korea have charged.

"We just don't know yet whether there is any reprocessing plant or not," he said. "That's why we ask for them to accept inspections."

ROK President Seeks Early Visit by Miyazawa

OW2211055591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u Friday urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to visit Seoul soon, saying cooperation between the two countries is increasingly important with the cold war ended, a Foreign Ministry official said.

"The world is embracing the concept of freedom and democracy following the collapse of the cold war," No said in a personal letter delivered by special envoy Yi Won-kyung.

"It is more important than before to strengthen friendly cooperation to contribute to world prosperity," No said, calling for an early exchange of views.

Miyazawa replied that he hopes to travel to Seoul soon and that he puts a high priority on the visit, which would be his first trip abroad since becoming premier earlier this month, the official said.

Yi, a former ambassador to Japan, was quoted as suggesting the two leaders get together occasionally on weekends for informal talks. Miyazawa reportedly agreed such informal exchanges would be beneficial.

In the 30-minute meeting Miyazawa also expressed concern over North Korea's refusal to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities, the official said.

South Korea, the United States, and other countries charge that North Korea is building a nuclear reprocessing plant, and foreign intelligence reports claim Pyongyang is nearing the capability to produce nuclear weapons. North Korea denies the charges.

Miyazawa said Pyongyang no longer has any excuse for resisting inspections, since Seoul recently announced it has agreed with Washington on removing U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea. Washington refuses to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons in South Korea.

A senior government source said earlier Friday that while in Seoul, Miyazawa plans to stress Tokyo's view that North Korea's alleged development of nuclear capabilities is a threat to all countries.

Yi met with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe later in the day, telling him South Korea is pleased with Japan's firm stance on the nuclear inspection issue in its talks with North Korea on normalizing relations.

Concerning Japan's growing trade surplus with South Korea, Yi was qouted as saying the two countries need to cooperate further to bring it down to a reasonable level.

Watanabe pointed out that the major cause of the trade imbalance is South Korea's dependence on Japan for semifinished products and key components used in its industry, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said Yi and Watanabe also discussed various problems South Korea faces due to its rapid growth, including rising wages and the shortage of labor.

Russians Claim Authority To Develop Sakhalin

OW2211035891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 21 KYODO—Russian Republic leaders claimed authority over development of Sakhalin, including title to resources on the island, officials of a visiting Japanese delegation said Thursday.

The claim was made during a meeting between Russian leaders, including parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Japan's 35-member business leaders' delegation for the study of economic cooperation, the officials said.

The delegation, organized by a private think tank and KYODO NEWS SERVICE, has been on an 11-day visit to the Soviet Union since Wednesday.

The Russian leaders said they intend to proceed on their own authority with a petroleum and natural gas development project on Sakhalin's northeastern continental shelf, saying it is the republic and not the state of Sakhalin that has authority on the matter, the officials said.

The project is currently one of the top-priority issues relating to economic cooperation between the two sides, they said

The Russian leaders told the delegation they are going to set up a new law soon that specifies the republic's ownership of petroleum and gas in Sakhalin, the delegation officials said.

At the meeting, the Japanese side said Russian laws and taxation systems are difficult to understand, prompting the Russians to respond that with active Japanese investment, the republic will make every effort to facilitate clearer laws and systems, they said.

Ministry To Urge Banks To Defer Soviet Debt

OW2211082691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0727 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance will call on Japanese banks to agree to a deferral of Soviet debt repayment, ministry officials said Friday.

The appeal comes on the heels of an agreement by the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations, the Kremlin, and the republics to postpone payment of the country's 3.6 billion dollar official debt contracted before January 1, 1991, and falling due in the period to the end of 1992.

Moscow's debt to Japanese private-sector banks is estimated at about 4.5 billion dollars.

But it is not known what portion of the debt to the private sector the MOF wants temporarily excused or how long the moratorium should last.

The Soviet republics and central government are expected to begin negotiations soon on deferral of Moscow's private-sector debt.

The Soviets have said the moratorium would apply to 3.6 billion dollars of the country's total debt to the G-7—Japan, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Canada.

Of this total, the amount owed to Japan is estimated at about 300-400 million dollars.

Reactions to GATT Head's Farm Issue Package

Kato Rejects Proposals

OW2211051691 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] At the farm negotiations of the GATT's Uruguay Round held in Geneva from last night to this morning Japan time, GATT Director General Dunkel presented an informal document summing up earlier disputes at the negotiations including a dispute on tariffication that might lead to opening Japan's rice market and, as for removing import barriers on farm produce including rice, he expressed his basic view that they should be removed by comprehensive tariffication. At the negotiations he also stressed that the unexceptional application of tarifficiation is the basis for opening the world farm produce market.

Reacting to Director General Dunkel's proposals, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato, speaking at a news conference held after a cabinet meeting this morning, said that the Japanese Government cannot accept the GATT director general's proposals. At the news conference, the government spokesman also said: As for the unexceptional application of tariffication to remove the import barriers on the farm produce, the director general indicated anew his conventional stance toward concluding the farm negotiations and he did not present any new ideas. We do not see his proposals as decisive. The Japanese Government intends to do its utmost to make other nations concerned understand Japan's position of not accepting any demands for opening its rice market through tariffication.

Shiaku Makes 'Strong' Objection

OW2211045591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 22 KYODO—The head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on Thursday urged a comprehensive tariffication of farm imports during high-level farm talks, GATT sources said.

Stressing the need for complete tariffication without exception, GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel presented a working paper of some 40 pages which focused on the current controversial issues in farm trade—import barriers, domestic protection, and export subsidies, the sources said.

The paper, showing the method of tariffication for nontariff barriers, made no direct mention of the notion of food security, which Japan has championed to protect its rice market, they said.

Jiro Shiaku, Japan's vice minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries for international affairs, made a strong objection to the paper, saying it is odd that all nontariff barriers should be replaced with tariffs without exception while export subsidies would be allowed, the sources said.

In this regard, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said in Tokyo that Dunkel's position did not represent the final conclusion.

"It seems to be a step in Dunkel's efforts to draw up a summary," Kato said of the working paper. "This is not a final decision."

Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference that tariffication without exception is unacceptable to Japan.

"We will make the greatest possible effort to maintain our position," Kato said.

He said that while it is known that the U.S. and Europe find tariffication compatible with protection of their farmers, he has no information that the two are close to reaching an agreement.

Fifth Ministerial Conference With EC Postponed

OW2211090691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—The fifth Japan-European Community (EC) Ministerial Meeting, which was to have been held November 25-26 in Tokyo, has been postponed because of a scheduling problem for one of the EC ministers who were to attend, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

Officials said Frans Andriessen, vice president of the EC commission and the EC's external relations commissioner, will come to Tokyo as scheduled despite EC Farm Commissioner Ray Macsharry's sudden cancellation of his visit to attend to urgent matters concerning the EC's common agricultural policy.

Six Japanese ministerial-level officials were to have met with the two EC ministers in the fifth such meeting since 1984.

Andriessen is expected to meet with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu, Economic Planning Agency Director General Takeshi Noda, and Environment Agency Director General Shozaburo Nakamura. He will also likely call on Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Japan's burgeoning trade surplus with the 12-member EC and the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks are likely to top Andriessen's agenda in Tokyo.

Andriessen and Japanese officials also will discuss how to follow up a joint Japan-EC declaration issued in the Hague in July calling for greater dialogue and strengthened cooperation between Japan and the EC.

German Economic Minister Concludes Tokyo Visit

OW2211092391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Visiting German Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann urged Japan Friday to open its heavily protected rice market to help successfully end global trade negotiations.

Moellemann told a press conference that Japan needs to show flexibility in farm issues, similar to that Germany recently exhibited.

Germany, formerly a strong opponent to freeing farm trade, has softened its stance by pledging cuts in farm subsidies, giving a sizable push to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

The five-year talks, held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), collapsed last year over farm trade reform, which put the European Community (EC), with its heavily subsidized farms, against the free-trade-minded United States.

But chances are growing for an eventual accord with both sides moving closer to a compromise, which puts increasing pressure on Japan to relinquish its longstanding ban on rice imports.

Moellemann said he received the impression in his talks with Japanese Government officials, including International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, that Japan agrees with Germany that the GATT talks should not fail because of "individual interests of individual groups."

"The weakening global economy needs a stimulus from positive results of the round" and a successful round will also benefit trade-dependent Japan and Germany.

In the press conference concluding his three-day stay in Tokyo, the German minister said he expects Japanese companies will change their cautious stance and increase investment in former East Germany.

Japanese companies have so far been hesitant to invest in the eastern part of Germany because they mistakenly think they are unwelcome there, he said.

That misconception is now corrected after his meetings with top officials in Japanese business circles, he said.

Ghali Welcomed as New UN Secretary General

OW2211100791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Japan welcomes the selection of Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Boutros Ghali as Secretary General of the United Nations, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

"We consider that he is the most appropriate politician to serve as secretary general at this time when expectations for the United Nations are increasing very rapidly," Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said.

Ghali "has proven himself a very highly skilled politician and diplomat," he said, pointing to Ghali's role in the 1978 Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel.

The 69-year-old Ghali, the first representative of an African country to head the world body, will succeed Javier Perez De Cuellar, a Peruvian, on January 1 as the U.N.'s sixth secretary general.

Watanabe said Japan intends to give the appointment its "full support" when it comes before the 166-nation General Assembly for formal endorsement based on the recommendation of the 15-member security council.

Ghali won out over 12 other candidates Thursday in the council's first round of secret balloting, reportedly with 11 votes in favor, none against, and four abstentions.

JVC, SRV Firm Negotiating Joint TV Venture

OW2211011891 Tokyo KYODO in English 2306 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Victor Co. of Japan (JVC) is negotiating with a Vietnamese electric machinery manufacturer on a joint venture to build color televisions in Ho Chi Minh City, JVC officials said Friday.

If JVC and the Vietnamese firm reach an agreement, it will be the first joint Japanese-Vietnamese manufacturing plant to be built since the former capital city of Saigon fell to North Vietnamese forces in 1975.

Color TV production is already under way in Vietnam, in plants using parts supplied by JVC, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. and Sanyo Electric Co.

JVC officials say the company hopes to start production at the proposed factory in mid-1992 if an agreement can be reached with the Vietnamese firm.

The main types of televisions to be produced would be 14-inch and 21-inch models intended for export to Southeast Asia, JVC officials said.

Under the present plan, 60,000 sets would be assembled each year in the Vietnamese plant, using parts supplied from JVC.

JVC operations in Thailand are currently producing 1.2 million color TV sets per year, for export primarily to the United States.

Firm To Establish Joint Venture in Beijing

OW2211044291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0428 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Shiseido Co. has agreed with a Chinese cosmetics firm to establish a joint-venture company in Beijing to manufacture and market high-quality cosmetics, the Tokyo company announced Friday.

The joint venture, called Shiseido Liyuan Cosmetics Co., will be capitalized at 1 billion yen. Shiseido's share will be 650 million yen and the Chinese partner's will be 350 million yen.

The new company will employ 700 people, Shiseido said.

Construction on a plant will begin in 1992 with the first skincare and cosmetic products to be sold in 1994. Five years after opening, sales are projected to be around 10 billion yen, Shiseido said.

SDP Head Told To Create Coalition Government

OW2211143091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1407 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Urayasu, Chiba Pref., Nov. 22 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, the top powerbroker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said Friday he has told an opposition party head to establish a coalition administration after the House of Councilors election next year.

Kanemaru, who heads the LDP's largest faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, said he sounded out the idea to Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest opposition party.

Kanemaru made the remarks in a meeting of a supporters' association for a Takeshita faction member in the House of Representatives, held in a hotel in Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture.

Kanemaru said he suggested to Tanabe that the opposition parties create a coalition government by appointing cabinet ministers from the SDP, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party after the upper house election expected around next summer.

Kanemaru, in a bid to carry out reorganization of Japan's political world, has often called on the SDP to create a coalition with the LDP, party sources said.

He said the establishment of a coalition administration should come first, before introduction of a single-seat constituency system and the reorganization of the political world.

Turning to North Korean affairs, the LDP strongman indicated that international inspection of its nuclear facilities are essential for stablity in the Korean peninsula.

Kanemaru visited North Korea as head of an LDP delegation in September 1990 and in a joint declaration with the Korean Workers' Party urged the Governments of Japan and North Korea to open normalization talks.

Yamaguchi Urges Measures To Pump Up Economy

OW2211063091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0610 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—A ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) panel chief said Friday the Japanese economy slows down further [passage as received] if the government does not take steps to pump it up.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be optimistic" about the economy given the burgeoning number of bankruptcies, Toshio Yamaguchi, head of the LDP Special Committee on Economic Adjustment, said at a cabinet ministerial meeting on the government's monthly economic report.

If the central bank continues to maintain a fundamentally tight credit policy, the government will have to take some step to halt the slowdown of the economy, he said.

"Otherwise the economy could slow even further," Yamaguchi said.

His comments were seen as an indirect call on the government to prop up the economy through pump-priming and other measures.

Several cabinet ministers who attended the meeting said they agreed.

Meanwhile, at a press conference following Friday's regular cabinet meeting, Takeshi Noda, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), voiced caution regarding the future of the nation's economy.

Commenting on changes in the EPA's wording in assessing the economy in its monthly report, Noda said they were meant as a warning of a possible slackening of the economy.

"Although it would be an exaggeration to say that the economy has cooled, it would also be an exaggeration to say that it was still rolling," he said.

He voiced caution, however, regarding the use of fiscal and financial measures to buttress the economy.

Ministry To Probe Second-Tier Brokerages

OW2211134291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—The Finance Ministry will conduct an examination of second-tier brokerages this month with the aim of determining the impact of the lingering stock market slump on their earnings, a top ministry official said Friday.

Speaking before a House of Representatives finance committee meeting, Nobuhiko Matsuno, director general of the ministry's securities bureau, noted rapidly deteriorating earnings at such brokerages.

Matsuno said the possibility is slim that this will lead to a business crisis, but stressed the need to find what measures are being taken by each second-tier brokerage to overcome the worsening profitability.

Among 21 listed second-tier brokerages, 18 companies reported pretax losses for the six months, ended September 30, as the market slump caused by the brokerage scandal this summer cut into their earnings.

In other remarks made before the lower house's committee, Matsuno said it is difficult to find evidence of alleged stock price manipulation concerning Honshu Paper Co.'s stock, which would be a violation of the Securities and Exchange Law.

The stock in question soared sharply last year, causing allegations that a specific investor group might have tried to fix the stock price at a higher level through improper transactions.

EPA: Economy Continues Expansion, Pace Slows

OW2211015291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0012 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—The Japanese economy reached its 60th straight month of expansion in November, although the growth pace has slowed, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Friday.

The EPA noted in its monthly report that the number of housing starts is declining and corporate investment is slowing down. But corporate revenues have maintained relatively high levels and consumer consumption is staying strong, so the nation's economy is still firm-footed overall.

"The country's economic growth is gradually slowing down. This, however, suggest that the economy is on the way to shifting its track to sustainable growth without inflation," the report said. It said Japan's industrial output shows ebb and flow, and corporate confidence has been overshadowed by shrinking revenues.

This resulted in an apparent decline in private-sector capital spending.

The employment situation is, however, still good, with a slight labor shortage.

Exports are making seesaw movements, while imports are gradually increasing, especially of manufactured products, it reported.

An economist at the agency said the government's economic indexes are showing unevenness lately. That is because the economy is "putting on the brakes" to change from the high 6 percent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) of past months to a more sustainable 4 percent per year, he said.

Mentioning that the Bank of Japan cut its official discount rate earlier this month, the EPA report said the government continues close monitoring on the key rate cut's effect on the economy.

High-Priced Imports Said Selling More Slowly

OW2211145691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1322 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—A recent survey shows Japanese consumers solidly behind luxury import items, but the same survey shows them not so willing to part with their savings, the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) said Friday.

The survey shows Japanese consumers prefer big-name brand luxury imports not only for their high-grade image but also for the top quality they offer, but the results, conducted by the semi-official trade promotion agency between July and September, also shows sales of such luxury articles slipping.

The 82 department stores and specialty stores questioned choose imported men's suits, polo shirts and neckties as popular items.

Italy's Visione suits, priced between 100,000 yen and 150,000 yen, also sold well while last year's line of suits, priced at 250,000 yen or above, sold even better, according to the survey.

Other popular high-grade items included interior decorations, carpets and desk and floor lamps, the survey found.

Persian carpets, priced between 600,000 yen and 1 million yen, and Chinese rugs, priced between 200,000 and 300,000 yen, were consumer favorites, while sales have slipped since last year.

U.S. And Italian brand furniture is also popular among consumers, including America's Century products, according to the survey.

Land Prices in Tokyo, Osaka Said Falling

OW2211145491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Land prices in Tokyo and Osaka have been falling steadily in recent months, according to a private survey published Friday.

Government sources said the survey results are expected to prompt the Finance Ministry to lift its controls on financial institutions' loans to real estate businesses around December 20.

The National Land Agency is expected to compile its own land price survey in mid-December, taking into account the results of the private survey.

The survey, which was conducted by the Japan Real Estate Institute and covered 223 cities in Japan, showed land prices in Tokyo's 23 wards fell 4.3 percent and those in Osaka Prefecture plunged 12.8 percent in the six-month period that ended September 30.

The survey showed land prices in the 223 cities dropped an average 0.3 percent to register the first fall in 16 years.

On average, commercial land prices increased 0.2 percent and industrial land prices rose 0.7 percent, but residential land prices fell 0.3 percent.

Residential land prices in Japan's six biggest cities—Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto, and Kobe—fell 6.5 percent, according to the survey.

The institute said that land prices are expected to continue falling in the coming months because of slumping demand for housing.

Trade Union Confederation To Seek Wage Hikes

OW2211042691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0359 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Japan's largest trade union confederation, Rengo, ended a two-day regular convention with a declaration calling for a more affluent society and fewer working hours for Japanese workers.

The Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) said in the declaration it will demand that the government and companies raise wages by 20,000 yen, or 8 percent, in next spring's wage hike negotiations.

The declaration said Rengo would work toward bringing the annual total of working hours down to 1,800 in 1993.

Japanese workers spent an annual average of 2,044 hours at work in 1990, about 150-400 hours longer than their American and West European counterparts.

The eight million-member Rengo, formed through the merger of four major trade unions in November 1989, said that although Japan is regarded as one of the most affluent countries because of the accumulated wealth of its large companies, Japanese workers are not as well-off as people think.

Rengo said Japanese workers live in "rabbit hutches" in a bad environment, receive lower wages in a more expensive consumer society and spend more hours at work and commuting in urban areas.

On the political front, the declaration said Rengo will give its firm backing to the Social Democratic Party and three middle-of-the-road opposition parties in the summer 1992 elections for the House of Councillors.

The 252-member upper house has been dominated by opposition party members since July 1989, although the ruling Liberal Democratic Party enjoys a comfortable majority in the House of Representatives.

About 570 union representatives at the convention reelected Akira Yamagishi as president and Seigo Yamada as secretary general, while they approved the new 58-member leadership.

The new leadership will serve the trade union confederation until the next union convention scheduled for October 1993.

At the close of the meeting, Yamagishi called on trade union members to work together to establish parliamentary democracy in Japan, saying this was at the heart of the trade union movement.

"The time has come for Rengo, after two years of gliding since its inception, to take off by itself," he said.

Yamagishi indicated that union members should make every effort to secure satisfactory wage hikes, shorter working hours and a higher standard of living, and said it is also Rengo's duty to achieve these goals on behalf of its members.

Labor Ministry Says Skilled Workers Scarce

OW2211105691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Japan's work force last year fell short of needs by a record 3.01 million skilled workers, ranging from draftsmen to microelectronics engineers, according to a survey released by the Labor Ministry Friday.

The figure, up 1.1 million from 1989, eclipsed the previous record of 2.06 million set in 1988, ministry officials said.

The officials noted the shortage came amid a continued Japanese economic expansion and industrial restructuring.

The rate of vacancies for skilled workers against the number of such workers then employed was 13.6 percent last year, up 2.9 percentage points from 1989 and the highest since the 14.3 percent recorded in 1974.

There was a shortage of 420,000 workers with advanced skills, such as microelectronics engineers, for a vacancy rate of 42.0 percent. (shortage involves workers with advanced skills, not only microelectronics experts).

The survey, which was conducted in October 1990 and covered 15,000 businesses nationwide with more than five employees, showed that 22.04 million skilled workers held jobs last year, up 4.18 million from 1989.

The construction industry suffered from the worst shortage, with the vacancy rate standing at 38.1 percent, followed by the wholesale, retail, and restaurant industries with 11.1 percent.

Lawyers Seek 'Death From Overwork' Compensation

OW2211093691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—A lawyers group urged the Labor Ministry Friday to specify "Karoshi"—death from overwork—as a basis for awarding workers' compensation.

The national defense counsel for victims of Karoshi, which also urged Diet legislation on the issue, proposed revising the labor standards law and other laws to legally define Karoshi as an "occupational disease," which is covered by compensation laws.

The lack of such a clear-cut definition in the labor law and the workers' compensation insurance law is one reason compensation is seldom awarded when employees are worked to death, the group said.

Instead of a clear, statutory coverage formula, the Labor Ministry has issued many notifications intended to illustrate how to determine whether a worker's disease was caused by job conditions.

Although Karoshi has become a widely discussed social problem, few Karoshi claims have received compensation.

Some 500 compensation claims were filed last year contending heart disease or cerebrovascular disease, such as strokes, were the cause of death, according to the Labor Ministry. Of those awarded compensation, only 33 were not accident-related, and thus could be classified as Karoshi, the group said.

Group Member Chikanobu Okamura said the group's proposal is based on standards used by high courts and district courts nationwide that awarded compensation in Karoshi cases.

Kato Says Country Safe for Foreigners

OW2211110291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0953 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Japan's top spokesman said Friday he regards the Philippine crackdown on women entertainers coming to Japan as an internal affair, but said he believes Japan is a "relatively safe country, even for foreigners."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato also said he believed the Philippines and Japan are in agreement that the death in September of a Filipino entertainer working in Fukushima Prefecture was due to illness, and not physical abuse as claimed by a Philippine Government doctor.

Kato made the comments in response to a question on the Philippine decision this week to allow only professional performers to come to Japan.

The decision restricts permission to entertainers over age 23 with at least one-year experience, and is expected to reduce by 90 percent the number of Filipino entertainers arriving in Japan.

Some 80,000 workers and entertainers, some without proper visas, are believed to be currently working in Japan.

Kato declined to comment on reports that organized crime was involved in bringing some of the workers here.

North Korea

Parties' Statement Condemns U.S.-ROK Accord

SK2211105591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 22 Nov 91

["Workers' Party of Korea and Other Political Parties and Public Organisations in the Northern Half of Korea Issue Joint Statement Denouncing 'Wartime Support Agreement.'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—Twenty-four political parties and public organisations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea including the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party, the Chondoist Chongu Party, the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea published a joint statement today, sternly denouncing in the name of the entire Korean people the "wartime support agreement" signed by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, branding it as an aggressive and treacherous war document for bringing dark clouds of another war of aggression, a nuclear war, over the Korean peninsula.

The joint statement reads:

This "wartime support agreement" consisting of nine articles and two supplements stipulates that the puppets should render munitional and logistic support to the U.S. imperialists for a swift and effective hurling and reinforcement or redeployment of their aggression forces in South Korea "in the event of contingency".

Under this "agreement," not only in wartime but also in peace time, the roads, harbours and airfields across South Korea should be transferred to the United States, various facilities and oils, ammunitions, etc. of the puppets be provided to it at its request, the stockpile of war supplies, control of equipment, mobilization of manpower, and so forth be ensured and, furthermore, the puppets should bear the expenses of various forms of military exercises staged in peace time.

This unequal "agreement" grants the U.S. imperialists unrestricted powers and privileges to freely requisition and mobilize South Korean manpower and material resources and imposes upon the puppets unilateral obligations to unconditionally satisfy the brigandish demands of the masters.

The "wartime support agreement" finally signed by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets this time is an aggressive and predatory agreement whereby the U.S. imperialists are allowed to tighten their military domination and control on South Korea, round off the preparations for a new war, make the provocation of a new war in Korea a fait accompli and requisition and mobilise all manpower and material resources of South Korea more effectively in its preparations.

The "South Korea-U.S. mutual defence pact" faked up between the United States and the Syngman Rhee puppet government "granted the United States unrestricted powers to use the territory, air space and waters" of South Korea. By contrast, the "wartime support agreement" signed between the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u puppet clique this time is a treacherous agreement under which the hearts and internal organs of the South Korean people are totally offered to the U.S. patrons.

The agreement is an extremely reckless and dangerous war document intended to provoke a new war at any cost, gravely violating the detente and peace on the Korean peninsula.

The No Tae-u group clearly revealed once again the true color of a pro-American flunkeyist traitor by finally signing the criminal treacherous document at a time when the people in the North and the South and compatriots overseas are unanimously longing for the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula, promotion of national concord and unity and achievement of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets created a precondition for bringing aggression forces from the U.S. mainland and overseas bases without restriction and installed an institutional mechanism to more easily ensure military actions of the aggression forces. This has carried the tension on the Korean peninsula to a more acute phase and the danger of war to a more grave extent.

The war moves of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea will be staged more openly under the protection of the so-called "law", the South Korean people bear a heavier burden of military spendings and the entire fellow countrymen face with a more realistic danger of war than ever before.

Worse still, the United States and the South Korean puppets even discussed "sanctions" and "military attack" on the pretext of our fictitious "nuclear development" at the so-called "South Korea-U.S. Annual Security Consultative Meeting". As a result , the danger of war on the Korean peninsula will expand, sending off bigger sparks.

The prevailing situation demands that all the Koreans in the North, South and overseas pay deep attention to the danger of a war, a nuclear war, hanging over the nation and turn out as one in the nationwide struggle for safeguarding peace of the country and promoting its peaceful reunification.

Considering that we have the legitimate right to declare null and void the aggressive and treacherous "wartime support agreement" which goes against the will and desire of the South Korean people and against the aspiration and demand of the whole nation, the political parties and social organizations in the northern half of the country strongly demand that this war document be scrapped unconditionally.

We also express the hope that all the South Korean political parties, groupings and people of various social strata will daringly turn out in a massive struggle for nullifying the criminal "agreement", a product of aggressive and treacherous bargaining, and making the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons withdraw from South Korea.

Ours is an era of independence.

The United States must take their hands of aggression and intervention off the Korean peninsula, clearly mindful that their foolish acts to trifle with the destiny of our nation by fabricating an aggressive document with the traitors forsaken by the people will miscarry.

The South Korean authorities must promptly stop the anti-national acts to plunge the fellow countrymen into the holocaust of a nuclear war in league with outside forces, standing opposed to their dialogue partner.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express the belief that the peace and social justice-loving political parties and organizations of all countries, international organizations and peaceloving people will pay due attention to the situation of the Korean peninsula strained by the United States and the South Korean authorities, lift up their voices denouncing them and extend support and solidarity to the Korean people in their just cause of peace and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Pact Called 'Aggressive and Predatory'

SK2211054891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0459 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—The "wartime support agreement" was signed in Seoul on November 21, the South Korean puppets yielding to the demand of the U.S. imperialists.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands the "agreement" as an aggressive and predatory war "agreement" which gives the United States a free hand to further strengthen its military domination over South Korea, round off its preparations for a new war and requisition all the human and material resources of South Korea more effectively for the execution of a war of aggression. It is also a disgraceful, treacherous document whereby the No Tae-u ruling group has sold off to the U.S. imperialist aggressors not only the territory, air and sea of South Korea but also the soul and viscera of the nation, the news analyst of the paper says, and continues:

The "agreement" stipulates that South Korea should give military and logistic support to the U.S. imperialists so that they can introduce and deploy in South Korea quickly and effectively U.S. aggression forces based in the U.S. mainland and Okinawa in the event of "contingency" on the Korean peninsula. This means that the U.S. imperialists have secured preconditions to ignite a war on the Korean peninsula and introduce its aggressive forces without restrictions and an institutional mechanism to conduct their military activities more easily. In a nutshell, the "agreement" is a document of aggression and treachery which gives the United States the right to freely requisition human and material resources of South Korea for a war and imposes upon the South Korean puppets a unilateral obligation to meet any U.S. demand.

What is more dangerous is that the "agreement" is a war document which makes the provocation of an adventurous war against the North a fait accompli.

The U.S. military bosses worked out an "operational plan" to destroy our non-existent "nuclear facilities" and even a "120-day war scenario", crying that "the Korean peninsula is the region which is fraught with the greatest danger of a regional war after the Gulf", and forced the puppets to clinch the signing of the "agreement". The fact proves once again that the U.S. imperialists together with the puppets are trying to light the fuse of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, come what may.

It is disgusting that the puppets struck out the word "host nation" from the original name of "wartime host nation support agreement" after a discussion with their master in a bid to cover up their crime in face of the massive protest of the South Korean people. Such mean act of the puppets only adds to the never-to-be- pardoned crime of the traitors who maintain their dirty power under the patronage of the masters.

Today when the U.S. imperialists and the puppets signed the aggressive war "agreement" and openly reveal their intention to invade the North, we are watching it with heightened vigilance.

The United States and the South Korean puppets must look straight at the reality and act with discretion, abrogate the aggressive and treacherous war "agreement" at once and take the road of peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Allied 'War Exercises' on 20 Nov Reported

SK2211052091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force and naval commands staged joint ground and air strike exercises against the North in the skies above South Korea on November 20, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the war game were Pacific-based fighter-bombers, assault planes, pursuit-assault planes and more than 320 fighter- bombers, assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes of the U.S. Air Force stationed in South Korea and the South Korean puppet air force.

The U.S. imperialists' Pacific-based "E-3A" airborne warning and control plane flew in the sky above the Military Demarcation Line to command the flying corps in the air war exercise and spy out the in- depth areas of the northern half of Korea.

On the same day, scores of assault planes, pursuit planes, pursuit-assault planes and VTOL [vertical takeoff and landing] assault planes of the U.S. Marine Corps based in Japan proper and the Pacific launched a war exercise for a surprise strike at the targets of the Oeyon islet.

Between November 19 and 20, the U.S. imperialists sent Pacific- based K-135 refuelling planes to the skies above the sea off Tokjok islet and Kunsan for a war exercise to refuel more than 50 fighter- bombers, observation planes, transport helicopters and helicopters for special operation and other planes of the U.S. Air Force present in South Korea.

Scores of combatant ships including destroyers, gunboats and rocket ships of the puppet army deployed near the West Sea demarcation line staged a war exercise against the North on November 20 in coordination with fighter-bombers, helicopters and transport planes.

That day, a group of heavy tanks of the puppet army fired scores of shells, moving along a road close to the military demarcation line in the area of Kumpa-ri, Paju County.

On November 20 alone, a total of 710 fighter-bombers, assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes flew in the skies above South Korea for war exercises against the North.

Japanese Women's Group Urges Normalized Relations

SK2211102491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo November 20 (KNS-KCNA)—The Society of Okayama Women for Solidarity with the Korean Women called at the residence of the Japanese prime minister on November 15 and demanded of the government an early normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations according to the joint declaration of the

Workers' Party of Korea, the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and the Japan Social-Democratic Party on the DPRK-Japan relations.

Yoshiko Iwai, chairman of the society, Keisuke Tanimura, socialist member of the House of Representatives, and Nobuko Mori, member of the House of Councillors, met Nobuo Ishihara, deputy chief cabinet secretary, at the residence of the prime minister and handed to him a request addressed to Kiichi Miyazawa, prime minister of Japan.

The request outlined the basic content of the three-party joint declaration and said that the Japanese Government is now going against the spirit of this declaration.

It noted that the unjustifiable act of the Japanese side in demanding a unilateral "nuclear inspection" of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is laying obstacles to the talks for normalising the diplomatic relations.

Stating that the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations is the foundation for peace in Asia, the request urged the Japanese Government to sincerely implement the three-party joint declaration and make active efforts for an early normalisation of diplomatic relations in conformity with the trend of the world calling for the establishment of a new international order.

Ministry, Press Groups Leave for Germany, PRC

SK2211054691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK headed by its first Vice-Minister Kang Sok-chu and a delegation of MINJU CHOSON headed by its editor-in- chief Kim Chong-suk left here on November 21 respectively for Germany and China.

A delegation of Vietnamese women headed by Truong My Hoa, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and vice-president of the Vietnam Women's Union, arrived in Pyongyang on the same day.

Preparations for City, County Elections Completed

SK2211051991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—The preparations for elections of deputies to city and county people's assemblies slated for November 24 have been wound up throughout the country amid a high degree of political enthusiasm of the entire people.

The city and county election committees, constituencies and subconstituencies have briskly made preparations for the elections according to the rules of the elections of deputies to the people's assemblies of the DPRK of all levels.

The constituencies and subconstituencies throughout the country registered the nominated candidates and made public the lists of their names.

Industrial establishments, cooperative farms and schools have prepared colorful art pieces to be performed in the day of elections.

The electors are waiting for the day of elections with a high degree of revolutionary zeal to participate in the elections, vote for the candidates and thus powerfully demonstrate the invincible might of the Korean people who have achieved a singlehearted unity and further strengthen our people's power so as to accelerate the revolutionary cause of chuche.

Political Aspects in Economic Management Stressed

SK2111123991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0007 GMT 21 Nov 91

[NODONG SINMUN 21 November "special article": "The Superiority of Socialist Economic Management Based on Political Method"]

[Text] The problem of the method of economic management is a very important one in the theory and practice of socialist economic management. Comprehensively elucidating the principles and methods of socialist economic management, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il profoundly clarified the methods of economic management, including the political method.

Socialist economy is managed and operated on the economic management methods suitable for it. The methods of economic management have a considerable effect on strengthening and developing the socialist economic system as a whole.

Because the socialist economic system was newly established on the basis of revolutionary liquidation of the capitalist economic system, its managerial and operational methods should be newly established on socialist principles. If we fail to solve this problem and conduct economic management in a capitalist way in contrast to the socialist economic system, we cannot exalt the superiority of socialism. Our party brilliantly solved the problem of the method of managing and operating the socialist economy by placing the popular masses in the center in conformity with socialism's natural demand.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said that the process of managing and operating the socialist economy is the process of combining and realizing political guidance, economic and technological guidance, and administrative and organizational guidance. He said that the method of activating people by applying various means and tactics in this process is the method of managing and operating the socialist economy.

Because the process of realizing socialist economic management is the process of political guidance, economic and technological guidance, and administrative and organizational guidance, the political method, economic and technological method, and administrative and organizational method have become the basic methods of the socialist economic management.

Of the methods of the socialist economic management, our party considered the political method the most significant, setting forth the principle of adhering mainly to this method.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: In socialist economic management, our party maintains the principle of giving priority to the political method and correctly combining it with the economic and technological method and the administrative and organizational method. In socialist economic management, we should adhere mainly to the political method.

In socialist economic management, the political method is the method of arousing the producing masses' revolutionary zeal and creative positivity and organizing and mobilizing them for carrying out economic tasks. Adhering mainly to the political method means to give definite priority to political work above all other types of work. Giving priority to political work is the method of attaching prime importance to people's ideology and arousing the masses' ideology, thereby vigorously mobilizing them for carrying out the revolutionary task.

Our party advanced the issue of the political method for the first time in the history of economic management and stressed the need for adhering mainly to it. This is our party's great and significant contribution to successfully solving the problem of socialist economic management.

The chuche economic management theory on adhering mainly to the political method in socialist economic management is a strong ideological and theoretical weapon enabling us to defend and adhere to the socialist economic system and to highly exalt its superiority. Attaching greater importance to the political method is an essential requirement in exalting the superiority of the socialist economic system, because it enables the popular masses to become the actual masters of economic management in conformity with the fundamental principles of socialist economic management.

On what principle we should manage and operate the socialist economy is a serious problem determining the success of economic management and the fate of the socialist economic system itself. The fundamental principles of economic management should be correctly clarified to successfully manage and operate the socialist economy in conformity with its natural demand.

The fundamental principle of the socialist economic management is its basis of opinions and viewpoints and the basic idea that governs its system and methods.

The socialist economic management system's scientific and revolutionary nature and its vitality depends on how we define its fundamental principle.

As specified by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the fundamental principle of the socialist economic management lies in making the popular masses the de facto masters of economic management.

To make the popular masses the de facto masters of economic management is to enable them to exercise practically their rights worthy of being the masters in economic management and to fulfill their duty and role worthy of being masters in production and management activities.

Whether the popular masses are made the de facto masters of economic management or not is a fundamental problem in the socialist economic management.

Only when the popular masses are made the de facto masters of economic management can they be made to vigorously accelerate socialist and communist economic construction by displaying their inexhaustible creative strength and their collective might in full.

Thus, the method of the socialist economic management should be one that enables the popular masses to correctly assume the role of being the de facto masters of economic management, as a matter of course, and the political method serves this purpose.

The political method, adhering to the work of educating the people as the first order of business, makes the producing masses clearly realize the objective and significance of the economic tasks. It enables them to rise up as one in the implementation of the economic tasks by conducting the political propaganda and economic agitation in many forms and ways whenever economic works are organized.

The political method enables the broad range of producing masses to actively develop their creative proposals and correctly embody them in the management and running of enterprises by prompting mass-oriented debates on ways to implement the economic tasks by giving priority to the political work.

Thus, the course and method of implementing the economic tasks will be decided correctly in conformity with the producing masses' creative proposals. The producing masses' collective opinions and measures will be correctly taken to improve the management of enterprises. At the same time, it will enable the producing masses to know well the contents of the economic tasks and the particular duties assigned to them. Then they will actively rise up in the implementation of the economic tasks with correct understanding about ways to implement them.

In particular, the political method makes the popular masses display their creative ability in economic management by raising the level of their political awakening and creative zeal and thereby become the de facto masters of economic management.

When functionaries go among the masses, share the same weal and woe, life and death with them, do the political work, with one moving ten, ten moving a hundred, and a hundred moving thousands, and with those above helping and teaching those below, the masses' creative ability will be displayed highly and the economic tasks will be successfully implemented.

Another reason for assuming the political method as the absolute condition for defending and illuminating the socialist economic system is that it functions most actively in fostering and developing collectivism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: The political method functions most actively in realizing the principle of the collectivism.

The basic yardstick for measuring the superiority of the socialist economic management depends on whether it fosters collectivism or not.

The struggle between socialism and capitalism is, importantly, a serious struggle with collectivism against individualism and egoism.

If egoism is fostered and developed, it will be impossible to defend the socialist economic system itself. For this reason, it is most important to embody the principle of collectivism and to strengthen the comradely cooperation and unity in deciding how socialist economic management should be resolved.

The political method is to help those above and those below and to make the producers help each other so that the workers can strengthen unity and cooperation and highly manifest the collective spirit. Strengthening cooperation among the workers and comradely unity make it possible to manifest the collective strength, wisdom, and might so that the collective spirit can be magnificently embodied in production and management.

By banding together the common intention and infinite creative strength of the popular masses, who want to carry out production and construction better and faster through the mass movement, the political method makes it possible for them to successfully carry out economic tasks with the might of unity.

Adhering to the political method by putting primary emphasis on it in the socialist economic management makes it possible for the economic and technological method and the administrative and organizational method to be thoroughly useful in realizing the principle of collectivism.

The economic and technological method and the administrative and organizational method can be successfully carried out only under the condition in which priority is given to the political work and in which the popular masses' voluntary enthusiasm is enhanced.

In a socialist society, the workers are not only those directly in charge of production but are also the masters in charge of all economic management work, from planning to handling products. The workers are also directly in charge of executing the nation's rules and regulations in economic management.

If the workers have much knowledge about specific situations and ways to improve production and management and if they show high enthusiasm, any economic and technological or administrative and organizational problems can be solved magnificently.

When the masses' enthusiasm is enhanced through the political work, the economic and technological work and the administrative and organizational work, such as accurately planning all work, rationalizing the production organization, and sufficiently guaranteeing the material and technological means, can all be carried out well.

Our party's economic management theory is that in the socialist economic management, the political method must be considered most important and adhered to with primary emphasis. This theory is an accurate ideological theory originating from the most correct chuche-oriented viewpoint of the ideology among the people.

The chuche idea does not view the people and producing masses as inferior beings who pursue only their own desires, as in capitalist societies, but views them as dignified beings who have an independent ideological consciousness. The chuche idea also elucidates that the people's ideological consciousness must be viewed as a decisive element in resolving all issues.

Socialism views the popular masses from a chuche-oriented viewpoint. The popular masses' lofty political and ideological consciousness to devotedly serve the fatherland and people must be highly manifested so that socialism can be built successfully.

As previously revealed by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the people cannot move toward communism by indulging in materialism and acquiring a taste for money; rather, they must be armed with the communist ideology so that an ideal communist society can be built.

The difficult and complicated problems in the road to build socialism must be solved in a socialist way. To achieve this, our party's great ideological theory must be adhered to first of all with primary emphasis on the political method. Thus the popular masses' political and ideological enthusiasm can be put in action.

Adhering to the political method by putting primary emphasis on it and managing and operating the socialist economy are the most correct roads in moving toward socialism and communism. This is a valuable truth which was clearly confirmed through our practical experience of successfully managing and operating the socialist economy in conformity with the great Taean work system.

When all the economic guiding functionaries firmly arm themselves with the theory of the political method elucidated by our party and when they thoroughly embody this, greater victories and results will be achieved in the socialist economic management and construction.

Editorial Urges Increasing Electricity Production

SK2111150291 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0015 GMT 19 Nov 91

[NODONG SINMUN 19 Nov editorial: "Let Us Produce More Electricity and Conserve It"]

[Text] To uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address, all party members and the working people throughout the country are now vigorously struggling to brilliantly carry out this year's plan in the last quarter.

To brilliantly carry out this year's plan by further putting spurs to today's grand march movement, we should produce more electricity, which is a basis of production. We should also effectively use it.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: We should increase electricity production to the maximum, utilizing the already developed electricity capacity effectively. In addition, we should build many new hydroelectric power stations and thermal power stations.

Electricity is an important power source in the national economy. Only when we firmly give priority to the electric power industry over the other sectors can we normalize production at a higher level in all sectors of the national economy and also enhance the people's standard of living more rapidly.

At present, the national economic demands for electricity are increasing continually. In particular, winter is approaching. Because of more utilization of heating facilities, the demands for electricity are further increasing.

We should operate the already established plants and enterprises at full capacity and guarantee the heat needed for production, construction, and the national economy. These depend decisively and largely on what quantity of electricity we produce and on how effectively we use it.

Our party's consistent demands are to increase electricity production and to conserve electricity. At an early date, our party regarded the electric power industry, along with the mining industry and railway transportation, as a leading sector in the national economy. Our party presented a policy of correctly combining the construction of thermal power stations with the construction of hydroelectric power stations and stations that generate power with other kinds of resources. It also presented a policy of building small and medium-sized power stations alongside large ones.

Our party's policy is the most just one, enabling us to prepare surely for the country's independent power base. Thanks to the thorough implementation of the policy, a large number of large-scale hydroelectric power stations, thermal power stations, and small and medium-sized power stations were built throughout the country.

The already developed power capacity is boundless. Only when we operate at full capacity can we more properly meet the increasing electric power demands of the national economy.

Today, power is needed for everyone everywhere. Therefore, we should further increase electricity production. Along with this, we should make efforts to use the produced electricity effectively and to positively conserve it. Thus, this becomes a firm guarantee in carrying out this year's plan brilliantly.

Today, we should enhance the already developed power capacity to the maximum to increase electricity production. We also have a great deal of reserves to positively conserve the produced electricity. We should properly repair and manage the power facilities. We should also enhance the facility operators' role and reconstruct the power facilities with modern technology to increase electricity production.

We should properly carry out alternative production and organization to effectively use the produced electricity to the maximum. All functionaries and the working people in the power industrial sector and all sectors and units supplied with electricity should be fully aware of the significance and importance of power production and its conservation at present. Thereby, they should ideologically participate in the struggle to increase the power production and to conserve it. First of all, they should operate the power facilities at full capacity. As a result, they should put great efforts into increasing power production. To do this, they should properly manage the power facilities first.

The power facilities are the basic means of power production. Only when we always and satisfactorily maintain the facilities in all power stations can we not only demonstrate their capacity to the maximum but also normalize power production at a higher level.

Power stations should properly repair and maintain their facilities and enhance the role of the facility operators and repairmen; organize the ideological indoctrination work to thoroughly build a strict system in managing the facilities; and complete the technological management specifications and standard manufacturing procedures for the facilities. In addition, power stations should firmly guide and control the facility operators and repairmen to faithfully abide by the system.

Along with this, the efficiency of boilers, steam turbines, watermills, and power generators should be promoted. The technological reconstruction work should be properly carried out in order to minimize the loss of heat. It is important to guarantee enough water and fuel. It is also important to properly manage them.

Hydroelectric power stations should thoroughly develop plans for damming rivers, which is a basic resource for electricity production. For the present, hydroelectric power stations should properly repair and manage various kinds of waterway structures and watercourses to prevent water leakage. At the same time, they should thoroughly develop plans to use water effectively.

Thermal power stations should properly develop plans for water supply to meet their winter demand. Electricity production in thermal power stations largely depends on coal production and supply. Electricity production in winter also largely depends on thermal power stations. Thereby, electricity production in thermal power stations is directly related to guaranteeing fuel and coal.

Relevant coal mines, fully aware of the fact that "coal production equals power production," should increase coal production to provide thermal power stations with good quality coal. To this end, they should firmly give priority to excavation and mining and positively improve and strengthen the management and operation work.

In particular, coal mines should concentrate on each pit, which is the basic combat unit in production, and enhance its functioning. In addition, they should organize the labor administrative work and the work of supplying the rear. In connection with coal mine production, relevant State Administration Council committees, departments, plants, and enterprises should satisfactorily provide coal mines with the interlinking facilities and materials in time.

We should effectively use power and positively conserve it. This means that the generated electricity should be more economically used, and that all units, which use it, should positively minimize the rate of electricity consumption, thus saving a great deal for power reserves.

Only when we effectively use and conserve the generated electricity can we properly operate the keen electric facilities, thus decisively improving their quality and increase their quantity in supplying electricity.

Eliminating the loss of electricity due to leakages in the electric power systems is one important requirement in effectively using the generated electricity and conserving it.

The power industrial sector and all sectors and units which use electricity should more thoroughly build the management system of the electric power system. In addition, they should normalize the repair of power facilities and positively carry out automation and remote control operations in the electric power system.

Organizing alternative production and organization is one important method of more effectively using electricity and solving difficult problems.

Relevant sectors and local communities should further organize alternative production and organization in conformity with their nature and properly guide and control workers.

While preparing the raw materials and facilities in advance, in particular, plants and enterprises should make strict regulations to effectively use the allotted electricity according to the scheduled time and date.

Large users are to minimize the consumption rate of electricity per unit of production to save electricity.

The metal and chemical industrial sectors, which use a large amount of electricity, should vigorously conduct a campaign for a technological innovation to turn the production process into one using less electricity or none at all. They should strictly abide by the technological specifications and standard manufacturing procedures in production; they should carry out the repairs and management of the machine facilities in a timely manner; they should enhance the quality of the raw materials and other materials; and they should guarantee the standardization system. In addition, they should positively stop light loading [*kyongbuha*] and zero rotation [*konghoejon*] in the power facilities by introducing the technological means, such as zero-operation checking machines [*kongunjon pangjigi*], welding machines, and no-load circuit breakers. In particular, they should use the electric motors and transformers suited to their capacities. They also should positively save steam, compressed air, water, and gas produced during electricity production. Electricity for lighting and unproductive electricity should actually be decreased.

All plants and enterprises should use lights only during their working hours. They should not use lights of high wattage. In addition, the established order and system should be followed in using the necessary daily electricity.

Relevant sectors should strengthen the work of supervising and controlling electricity consumption. Only when functionaries support their organizational work can workers more properly carry out the work of increasing electricity production and conserving it.

At present, leading functionaries in the electric industrial sector and all sectors and units which use electricity should specifically organize the work of increasing electricity and of conserving it. They should be fully aware of the significance and importance of power production and its effective use in developing the overall national economy and in improving the people's standard of living. In particular, functionaries in the local communities, parties, and government should properly carry out the organizational work to operate the already established small and medium-sized hydroelectric power stations at full capacity.

Party organizations in all sectors of the national economy, including the power industrial sector, should more vigorously carry out the political, ideological, and educational work among all party members and the working people so that they can rapidly increase power production and effectively use and conserve it. By doing so, party organizations can ensure that they can further increase power production, even one kilowatt, and effectively use it, and that they can continue to effect a great upsurge in production and construction.

KCNA Reviews 22 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK2211054991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of Lebanon, on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the independence of Lebanon.

NODONG SINMUN devotes more than one page to an article titled "She Is a True Servant of the People" on the loving care shown by the great leader President Kim Il-song for twice labor heroine Chong Chun-sil, director of the commercial management office in Chonchon County, Chagang Province, and on her activities in the spirit of devoted service for the people.

Works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were studied and disseminated abroad, says the press.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article saying that Comrade Kim Chong-il wisely led the Kilju pulp factory in North Hamgyong Province in accelerating technical revolution to modernise production processes.

Preparations for the elections of deputies to the city and county people's assemblies slated for November 24 have just been rounded off, according to the press.

Econews of the press includes an account of a meeting for year- end account settlement and income distribution held on the Rihyon cooperative farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang, and a report that the work of carpeting paddy fields with humus soil is being stepped up on cooperative farms.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the national art festival of the working people and the national landscape painting and industrial arts exposition opened and the national juvenile table tennis championships and the national junior gymnastic championships took place.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continued to stage large-scale joint war exercises against the North, says the paper.

The paper in a commentary denounces the signing of the aggressive and treacherous "wartime support agreement" between the United States and South Korea.

MINJU CHOSON in a commentary charges that outcries of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group for "nuclear inspection" of the North is aimed to impair the authority of our Republic.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article on the reactionary nature of the unrealistic "theory of giving priority to confidence-building" without disarmament brought forward by the South Korean puppets.

The paper reports that South Korean people are waging an active struggle against the splittist moves of the U.S. imperialists and the puppet authorities and for earlier national reunification and South Korean peasants are opposed to rice market opening pressure and predatory purchase.

Given in the paper is news that MINJOK SIBO, a newspaper of overseas Koreans published in Japan, laid bare the deceptive nature of No Tae-u's "denuclearisation declaration" and the world public demanded the repatriation of old man Yi In-mo who was a war correspondent of the Korean People's Army.

International news of the paper includes reports that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk called for concentrating efforts on the reconstruction of national economy, social organisations of Latin American countries worked out an action program for solidarity with Cuba, the Vietnamese paper NHAN DAN carried an editorial titled "The Idea of October Revolution and Socialism Shall Be Everlasting", the president of Tanzania rejected the introduction of "multi- party system" and the president of Zimbabwe referred to peace in South Africa. The paper deals with the soviet situation.

Papers observe the 48th anniversary of the independence of Lebanon.

NODONG SINMUN in an article captioned "War Maniac Under the Mask of 'Peace'" exposes the belligerent moves of the U.S. rulers behind the curtain of "detente" and "disarmament."

South Korea

Students Firebomb U.S. Cultural Center in Taegu

SK2211005091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0035 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Taegu, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—Students hurled around 80 firebombs at the U.S. Cultural Center in Taegu Thursday night, shouting "No rice imports," but did no damage to the building, police said.

Some 200 students from Kyongbuk National and Yongnam Universities held a rally on the campus of the Kyongbuk Dental College, about 50 meters from the Cultural Center, police said.

They protested against liberalization of rice imports and the Wartime Host Nation Support agreement, under which Korea is to provide materials and facilities for U.S. troops in time of war in Korea.

After the rally, a number of angry students threw firebombs at the Cultural Center but were too far away to do damage. Police guarding the center used tear gas bombs to disperse the students.

Defense Minister on U.S.-ROK Security Meeting

SK2111140291 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Interview with Yi Chong-ku, ROK defense minister, by KBS anchorman Pak Song-pom; place not given—live]

[Text] [Pak Song-pom] It seems that discussions on ways to deter North Korea's nuclear development was an important agenda item in the ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting [SCM]. What method did both sides agree upon to deter North Korea's nuclear development?

[Yi Chong-ku] The 23d ROK-U.S. SCM ended today. As you said, the SCM's main agenda item was how to deal with North Korea's nuclear development, which is also emerging as a sensitive worldwide problem. In a nutshell, the result of the SCM was very satisfactory. In the past, the ROK and the United States did not decide on how to deal with this issue, but through the SCM both sides agreed that considerably intensified measures will be taken against North Korea in this matter.

[Pak] Academic figures and military experts in the United States say that it will be inevitable to take military measures to deter North Korea's nuclear development. Discussions were held on possible military measures. Please tell us what the government position is in this matter.

[Yi] We did not hold discussions on taking military measures. Our position is that the purpose of deterring North Korea's nuclear development is to prevent war on the Korean peninsula. Therefore, if any kind of military measures is linked to possibly starting a second war on the Korean peninsula, we cannot accept this. We agreed to make further efforts to urge organizations such as the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency to take stronger and more active measures to apply diplomatic pressure to North Korea. Until now, the ROK and the United States had a lukewarm attitude, but both sides agreed that in the future we should make efforts so that these international organizations can take more active measures in this matter.

[Pak] At the end of the SCM, U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney said that as long as North Korea does not stop nuclear development and as long as the nuclear danger on the Korean peninsula remains, the second-phase withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Korea will be postponed indefinitely. However, will the withdrawal of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea be carried out as scheduled, even if North Korea does not stop its nuclear development?

[Yi] Yes. The United States' new nuclear policy, which has already been announced, and President No Tae-u's 8 November denuclearization declaration are valid.

[Pak] It seems that there is quite a misunderstanding over the Wartime Host Nations Support [WHNS] Agreement. What is the WHNS' actual content?

[Yi] In a nutshell, the WHNS was concluded because we needed it. If a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, we are to give a regular amount of munitions support to the increased U.S. forces. However, the food and clothing needed for the forces will be at their own expense. Even though we will support them with this in advance, we are to settle accounts later. If this kind of agreement did not exist, increased forces could not be sent quickly in time of war. Many advanced countries, including Germany and member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have already concluded the WHNS. We must know that this has been concluded on need.

[Pak] Thank you, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku.

[Yi] Thank you.

Envoy to U.S. on Relations, North Nuclear Issue

SK2211092691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0846 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United States is not considering military action against North Korea to stop its nuclear development program, and it is too early to consider economic sanctions, South Korean Ambassador to the United States Hyon Hong-chu said Friday.

North Korea was being hard-pressed by the international community to abandon nuclear arms development, but South Korea would need to keep up its diplomatic efforts with other nations, including the United States, to prevent North Korea from becoming a nuclear power, he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for multilateral consultations on the Korean peninsula issues "has its good points" but "was wrong in the timing and method of proposing the idea," Hyon said.

"The proposal is not the same as the '2-plus-4' formula applied to Germany. This is clear," he told a news conference at the Foreign Ministry.

"But the United States should have consulted the two sides of the involved parties (South and North Korea). Instead, the idea was first revealed in the U.S. magazine FOREIGN AFFAIRS and was discussed first with Japan before arriving here," Hyon said.

A multilateral formula was currently undesirable, the ambassador said.

"One thing is clear, that the 'two' parties must take the initiative," he said.

Hyon was in Seoul for the 23rd South Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) that ended here Thursday.

He was appointed to the Embassy in Washington last March.

Hyon, rejecting repeated reports that the United States is considering military action to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, said: "Washington is not thinking about military options."

Asked about the possibility of economic sanctions against North Korea, Hyon said it was too early.

"Economic sanctions were used as an option by the United Nations as in the Iraqi case, but considering the negligible trade between North Korea and other nations, the effectiveness of sanctions is questionable," he said.

"It is also questionable whether China, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, would agree to the sanction proposal."

He was optimistic about current Seoul-Washington relations, saying there were no urgent pending issues.

The two countries are working to settle problems before they become too big, he said, one example being ongoing negotiations on banning foreigners involved in law suits from leaving Korea.

"Some Americans claim this measure is like taking hostages. U.S. officials say they are considering posting a travel advisory, warning American businessmen and visitors of this measure," Hyon said. "Negotiations are under way to settle this issue."

Cites North Conditions for Inspection

SK2211120091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1144 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea has sent a message to South Korea and the United States that it is prepared to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities on condition that the two Koreas accept simultaneous inspection of nuclear weapons sites, South Korean Ambassador to the United States Hyon Hong-chu said Friday.

Whether this suggests North Korea is ready to open its nuclear facilities to outside inspection remains to be seen, Hyon said, but the overall reaction in Washington about the message is that it does not contain anything new.

The message was delivered through William Taylor, vice president for international security programs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who was in Pyongyang earlier this month, according to Hyon.

It was addressed to U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, South Korean Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku and Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and U.S. Ambassador to Korea Donald Gregg, Hyon said.

Hyon briefly returned to Seoul to attend the 23rd South Korea- U.S. Security Consultative Meeting that ended Thursday.

The message was that North Korea is prepared to receive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections as soon as South Korea and the United States are prepared to receive inspection of "nuclear weapons sites" in the South.

Foreign Ministry officials here claimed the message does not suggest the North is about to accept nuclear inspection but is insisting on "verifying" that U.S. tactical weapons have indeed been withdrawn from the South as U.S. President George Bush announced in September.

North To Sign Nuclear Safeguards Accord in Feb

SK2211074291 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 22 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 22 November that in order to stop the increasing pressure to accept international nuclear inspection, North Korea will sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord before the February 1992 regular directors' meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

A high-ranking government official revealed: "North Korea does not want its nuclear issue to move to the United Nations. We received information from the United States and China that North Korea had already decided internally to sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord."

This official said that through the directors' meeting in December and February of next year the IAEA plans to draw up a measure forcing North Korea to receive nuclear inspection and will take this matter to the UN Security Council. This official added: "Therefore, North Korea will sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord before the February regular directors' meeting."

This official stated: "It is predicted that even though North Korea signs the Nuclear Safeguards Accord its effective date will be delayed on the grounds that domestic ratification procedures must be taken. The ROK Government will not lessen its diplomatic pressure against North Korea even if it does sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord. It will continue to pressure North Korea to receive nuclear inspection and abolish all nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities which are the source of developing nuclear weapons."

Chon In-chol, vice minister of the DPRK Foreign Ministry and head of the North Korean delegate to the DPRK-Japan talks to normalize diplomatic relations, and Choe U-Chin, ambassador-at-large of the DPRK Foreign Ministry, who is in the United States now, recently strongly hinted that North Korea is willing to sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

North Minister Urges Nuclear Talks With U.S.

SK2211021291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] Tokyo (Special)—North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Chon In-chol has indicated that the summit between Kim Il-song of the North and No Tae-u of the South can be held, depending on the outcome of the premiers' talks between the two sides slated for December in Seoul.

In an interview with the Asahi Shimbun, a major Japanese daily, he suggested direct negotiations with the United States on the matter of international inspection of nuclear facilities in North Korea which many nations suspect are for the making of nuclear weapons.

When it comes to the international inspection, the most serious bottleneck is the deployment of U.S. nuclear warheads in South Korea, he said.

He said he could not say conclusively when the issue will be wrapped up.

He said if the United States wants to settle the issue in a silent manner, it should initiate direct dialogue with North Korea.

Chon said it is totally false that North Korea is building recycling facilities for spent nuclear fuel.

As to suspicions that North Korea is building reprocessing facilities, he said the United States and Japan will be embarrassed that they had made such a fuss about nothing if they come and conduct inspections, according to the Beijing-datelined article carried in the Japanese daily.

North's Choe U-chin Interviewed on Nuclear Issue

SK2211132491 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 21 Nov 91 p 3

[Interview with Choe U-chin, vice director of the DPRK Institute of Disarmament and Peace, by reporter Chong Yon-chu on 19 November in Washington. First two paragraphs are newspaper's introduction]

[Text] On the afternoon (local time) of 19 November, Choe U- chin, vice director of the DPRK Institute of Disarmament and Peace, held a news conference in Washington and revealed North Korea's position on various points of dispute surrounding North Korea's nuclear issue, which is currently receiving the spotlight in the news at home and abroad. With two other North Korean representatives, Vice Director Choe U-chin participated in the U.S.-North Korea specialists' conference in Washington under the theme of "The Korean Peninsula in the Nineties," hosted by the East Asia Affairs Institute, George Washington University for three days beginning from 17 November. They exchanged opinions with high-ranking government officials and specialists including Desaix Anderson, deputy assistant secretary to the U.S. State Department.

Vice Director Choe's news conference is of great interest in that we had the opportunity to listen to North Korea's position after various analyses and countermeasures were put forth unilaterally by the Western side.

[Chong Yon-chu] What is North Korea's position regarding international pressure to respond to nuclear inspection?

[Choe U-chin] As already revealed on many occasions, we do not have the intention or the ability to develop nuclear weapons. Propagandizing as if we are producing nuclear weapons shows that other countries have a misunderstanding regarding our republic. It is a clear fact that we, who possess the chuche idea which regards the popular masses as the most important, do not produce weapons that can carry out mass murder. Our position from the beginning was to achieve an antinuclear and nuclear-free zone. For us to produce nuclear weapons is preposterous. Currently the world trend is moving towards reconciliation, detente, and to an era of abolishing nuclear weapons. There is no reason for us to produce nuclear weapons by going against the trend of the international situation. If either side from the North and South uses nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula, this will influence the fate of the whole nation. Nevertheless, to propagandize as if we are producing nuclear weapons, I believe, is due to another purpose. Our basic position is to accept nuclear inspection. This issue can be resolved if the U.S. nuclear weapons are withdrawn from South Korea and the North and South receive nuclear inspection at the same time.

[Chong] After President Bush announced the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons, North Korea put forth several new conditions such as South Korea giving up its nuclear umbrella of protection.

[Choe] We expressed through a statement by our Foreign Ministry that we welcome President Bush's announcement to withdraw tactical nuclear weapons. We also assessed South Korea's denuclearization declaration through the press statement by our Foreign Ministry spokesman. We never put forth conditions such as for South Korea to give up its nuclear umbrella or the withdrawal of U.S. forces in South Korea. It seems that reports that we put forth this kind of claim are to fabricate public opinion in order to put international pressure on us.

[Chong] Then if all U.S. nuclear weapons are withdrawn from the South side and the North and South agree to receive nuclear inspection at the same time, is North Korea willing to wholly accept nuclear inspection?

[Choe] First of all, it must be confirmed that the U.S. nuclear weapons have been completely withdrawn, and then conditions to resolve this issue fairly must be achieved. This means that the North and South must receive nuclear inspection at the same time and a rational method must be inquired into upon agreement by the North and South regarding this matter. Both sides must be able to confirm that there are no nuclear weapons, and facilities that seem to have nuclear weapons must also be confirmed. If the intentions of the North and South are joined together, the issue of nuclear inspection will also be resolved naturally.

[Chong] What is your opinion regarding the talks with six countries which were proposed by Secretary Baker?

[Choe] We have to study this more. There is really no reason to oppose this if it will be of help in guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula and achieving reunification. However, if the talks are held with six countries under the current situation, I wonder if effective results can be achieved. There are rumors that the talks with six countries are to put pressure on us, but I do not want to view them as that.

[Chong] You said that North Korea will not accept nuclear inspection as long as there is international pressure. Why do you think this kind of pressure has been strengthened recently? Also, if this kind of pressure is continued, what measures will the North take?

[Choe] It seems that this is an attempt to isolate us from the international community. International pressure is an outrageous violation of sovereignty. We, who regard sovereignty as our own life, will by no means yield to this kind of pressure. We will not accept nuclear inspection as a form of yielding. If the international community truly wants us to receive nuclear inspection this kind of useless pressure must not be attempted. There are rumors that a resolution by the International Atomic Energy Agency will be adopted, that the United Nations will take up this matter, that forced inspection will be carried out, and that there will even be a bombing attack. These kind of rumors will make the issue rather more serious.

[Chong] According to U.S. and French reconnaissance satellites, there is considerable progress in building nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and there are traces of explosion tests having been held. You said that North Korea does not have the intention or the ability to develop nuclear weapons. Then, is the claim by the United States and France a lie?

[Choe] Material by a person living in the North is more accurate than pictures from a reconnaissance satellite.

Admits Acquiring 'Small Reactor'

SK2211054591 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Nov 91 p 3

[Article by Washington, D.C. correspondent Chong Hae-yong from the column "Reporter's Memobook": "Uniform Answers on Nuclear Issue"]

[Text] Choe U-chin, deputy director of the Disarmament and Peace Research Institute under North Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held a press conference with Korean, Japanese, and U.S. reporters in Washington on the afternoon of 19 November. Along with his two fellow researchers, he attended a meeting of American and North Korean specialists on 17 November. The theme of the meeting was "The Korean Peninsula in the Nineties."

This press conference, sponsored by Professor Kim Yong-chin, director of the Institute of Northeast Asian Affairs at George Washington University, focused entirely on North Korea's nuclear development. Deputy Director Choe seemed to be well prepared for such attention and gave uninterrupted answers.

Nonetheless, he gave the impression that the more fluent his answers, the less consistent and convincing they seemed. Deputy Director Choe opened his speech by stating: North Korea has neither the ability nor the intent to produce nuclear weapons. It is not producing nor has it produced nuclear weapons. So we are not against nuclear inspection. Why should the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who values the people most, manufacture nuclear weapons capable of annihilating the nation? he asked. Simply put, he seemed to say: We do not have the least intention of producing nuclear weapons, so why are you kicking up such commotion and putting pressure on us?

Midway through his rambling answers, he said: We have an experimental reactor..., as if accidentally mentioning it. Reporters did not fail to seize the opportunity. When pressed, he quibbled: Well, we have one small reactor that was brought in a few years ago. Unfortunately, however, I have no detailed knowledge about it. Hurriedly, he returned to his answers, which seemed to have been rehearsed, adding: We have no nuclear weapons specialists or engineers. Nor do we have any facilities. When asked for his comment on pictures taken by U.S. and French spy satellites that showed traces of a nuclear test, he said: What the residents there know as fact is more certain than satellite photographs. One of the reporters said that it is due to North Korea's refusal to open itself up but keeps its door closed that it is forced to accept nuclear inspections.

Deputy Director Choe stunned the reporters with a few extraordinary answers that seemed to be self-centered. He said: North Korea is far ahead of others when it comes to opening up. For example, one does not have to wait for a visa after applying for it. We have opened everything to make the popular masses feel comfortable. We effected land reform as soon as our country was liberated. Look at the land reform. The best kind of reform is such that corresponds to public demand. Reform and opening in some of the East European countries have brought about confusion, because they were not chuche-based.

Deputy Director Choe seemed to turn this press conference into an opportunity to publicize to the West North

"If their outcome stresses on what the rich, the poor, the small and the big countries should do, then we way decide to attend," he said.

The prime minister was speaking to reporters after addressing the 1991 United Nations Malaysia Association (UNMA) forum here.

He said Malaysia would make consideration if it found that the summit sought how all parties should act to reduce environmental pollution.

"But if eventually we realise that it is going to let only the poor countries bear the burden of looking after the environment, then we might as well don't attend," he said. [sentence as received]

He said even before this Malaysia has said it might not attend the Rio de Janeiro summit if it only focus on developing countries, environmental pollution and logging activities. [sentence as received]

As such Malaysia would attend the two meetings preceeding the summit and was not planning to boycott them, said Dr. Mahathir.

Reporters also asked the prime minister on issues he would raise when addressing the G15 summit in Caracas, Venezuela from Nov 27 to 29 Nov.

He said he would, among other things, touch on North-South relations, problems faced by Asian countries, and general South-South issues.

To another question, the prime minister said ASEAN member countries have not officially discussed Vietnam and Cambodia's participation in the regional grouping.

So far, no application has been received, he said.

Envoy Questions UN's Environmental 'Commitment'

BK1911152191 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Malaysia has questioned the commitment of the countries of the North toward the South pertaining to environmental issues. Malaysian permanent representative to the United Nations Tan Sri Razali Ismail said that there were few indications to show that the matter was given top consideration among the developed countries. He said this to the UN conference on environment and development in New York. The text of his speech was released in Kuala Lumpur today.

Tan Sri Razali pointed out that bargains clearly spelled out in the UN resolution 2 years ago had been deliberately blurred as the negotiations proceeded. There had been many disturbing instances of [words indistinct] that can be interpreted as a delusion of commitment. The resolution stated that developing countries would respond positively on environmental issues. Developed countries, meanwhile, would [words indistinct] the development issues crucial to the economic growth of the south to make the development sustainable. The problems pertaining to development to date had not indicated any categorical response from the developed countries in general. Instead, a lot of pressures had been placed on the South. The situation was not uncommon as it had been a known factor that during negotiations, the South would immediately be placed under pressure.

Deputy Minister on PAS's Judicial Challenge

BK2011142591 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Encik [Mr.] Ghafar Baba, says the judicial, the legislative, and executive system which have been the thrust of power of the nation's administration will be undermined if PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party], which subscribes to the system of government based on the Council of Ulama, were to rule the country. By disobeying the court order restraining two members of Semangat '46 from being sworn in as state assemblymen in Kelantan, PAS has clearly shown that it had challenged the country's judicial system.

Speaking to reporters after briefing members of the Melaka Barisan Nasional [BN] election machinery on the Serkam state by-election, he said that the judiciary, the legislature, and executive were interlinked and if one did not conform to the other, the future of the system would not be certain.

Encik Ghafar said PAS' action also showed that the judicial, legislative, and executive system had been undermined and that the future of the system would surely be threatened if the opposition party were to rule the country. He said the PAS would rule the country based on the Dewan [Council] Ulama system and all decisions made by the Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] would require the approval of the Dewan Ulama before they could be implemented.

The deputy prime minister said should this happen, the future of the people, including the Chinese and the Indians would no longer be certain and as such, efforts should be made to prevent the party from ruling the country through the general elections or by- elections.

Commenting on Kelantan Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat statement that the system of constitution monarchy was not Islamic, he said PAS is ruling Kelantan and can do whatever it feels like doing but BN will continue to uphold the existing constitution.

Singapore

Hong Kong Governor Notes 'Friendly' Rivalry

BK1911162491 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Hong Kong and Singapore both realize that the success of the two cities go together and will build each other up. The governor of Hong Kong, Sir David Wilson, who is here on an official visit, said both are in competition, but the two sides are very friendly rivals. In his talks with several Singapore ministers, he said both parties reaffirm that they want the other to succeed. He said he welcomed the increasing interest by Singapore businessmen to invest in Hong Kong.

On Hong Kong's role in regional trade after 1997, Sir Wilson said Hong Kong will go on playing a key role, particularly as a bridge between China and the rest of the region and Europe.

Malaysian King Fetes President; Speeches Cited

BK2011152391 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The heads of state of Malaysia and Singapore have noted that both countries have forged close ties despite occasional [words indstinct]. The point was made at a state banquet hosted by Malaysia's *yang di-pertuan agong* [paramount ruler] in honor of President Wee Kim Wee in Kuala Lumpur.

Sultan Azlan Shah noted the strong political will and determination on the part of both governments to resolve their bilateral problems in the spirit of goodwill. [passage indistinct] The Malaysian king said Singapore's achievements are now examples for other developing countries, particularly those in the region, to emulate. He said the importance that Singapore attaches to Southeast Asia and in particular to ASEAN is line with Malaysia's [words indistinct].

In reply, President Wee noted both Malaysia and Singapore [words indistinct]. President Wee said the two countries have a special relationship and have increasingly recognized many common interests—economic, security, and defense. In recent years, new business and tourism linkages have supplemented traditional, historical, geographical, and family ties. Economic linkages between Singapore and Johor have [words indistinct]. Singapore's relations with other states of Malaysia have also grown with the consent of [word indstinct] authorities. President Wee noted that both sides also (?showed) a strong common interest in ASEAN. He said [words indstinct] intra-ASEAN economic cooperation.

Prime Minister at People's Action Party Meeting

BK1911102191 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Nov 91 p 1

[By Bertha Henson]

[Text] Prime Minister [PM] Goh Chok Tong yesterday made it clear that he stood for a firm and decisive government, even as he continues with his open consultative style.

The government would continue listening, but it would take a firm approach towards those who want changes to policies for the wrong reasons or express contempt for ministers and MPs.

It would govern fairly, give all, rich and poor, an equal chance to move up regardless of race, nurture the talented and give the poor a helping hand.

It would continue to induct good, capable men and women with fighting spirit into its ranks, paying ministers close to market rates to get the best and giving party activists a formal channel to MPship.

This, in a nutshell, was the Goh Chok Tong philosophy of governemnt as he told it to 900 party activists at the third People's Action Party [PAP] Convention at the Singapore Labour Foundation auditorium.

Mr. Goh, the PAP's first assistant secretary general, delivered a 1-1/2 hour keynote speech in which he left no doubt that he wanted the chapter on the Aug-31 general election closed.

Reiterating a point he made at a community visit last weekend, he made it clear that the time for analysis was over.

The fundamental point was that the party had taken 61 percent of the valid votes and 95 percent of the seats and was in a strong positon to govern for the next five years and carry out its programmes to level up society in the next lap.

There was nothing for the party activists to feel defensive or demoralised about. Instead they should rally together to win the next election.

Delivering a short speech first in Mandarin, before turning to his fuller English version, he showed that he was determined to put behind him the image of the disappointed PM.

Yes, he was disappointed with the results but the Government had to start delivering the goods, he said.

And in delivering the goods, it would stick to the fundamentals rather than allow populist pressures, which had started to build up after the election, to force it to change direction.

Neither would he allow his consultative style to degenerate into an "open hunting season" against the Government, he said adding that ministers and MPs would now squash on-the-spot "wrong-headed" views before they take root and spread.

Noting that such views had been voiced by party activists themselves at feedback forums and at the convention, he urged them to remember which side they were on and not be seduced by coffeeshop talk and opposition propaganda.

Senior Minister Lee Kuan yew, the PAP Secrtary General, was not present at the convention, which reopened yesterday with Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who is also Second Assistant Secretary General, discussing the call by some Singaporeans to slow down the pace of policy changes.

Singapore should not slow down, he said, or it would risk being overtaken by other countries.

The convention, which took an introspective look at the party's philosophy and organisation, later saw an intense discussion on one particular paper by the City North District.

The paper said that the party had moved away from being a party of the people and was perceived as being elitist and money-grabbing.

Taking issue with it, Mr Goh said in his closing address that the task for party activists now was to correct this misperception. He provided facts and figures for them to do so.

It was nonsense to say that the PAP was elitist when it was clearly a mass-based party, he said.

While he acknowledged that some policies, for example on education, were elitist, he pointed out that this was part of the Government's philosophy to help those who can move fastest and furthest to go the full length.

The point was that all have a chance to get through the door and move up.

And he made no apologies about the elite rung of political leaders with their degrees and Phds, secured by the PAP through its talent-scouting process.

Good people with vision, the ability to anticipate problems and manage crises like the 1986 recession and recent hijacking of SQ117, are not thrown up by popular elections, he said.

They have to be screened to see if they have the right qualities, the most essential being a fighting spirit, to be ministers and MPs.

Turning to the question of neglecting the poor, he urged party activisits to be objective and look at the facts.

And the fact was that Singaporeans were better off now, with salary increases out-stripping inflation and more and more amenities in their homes, he said, releasing tables on assets and other economic indicators to demonstrate his points.

Indeed, he was bewildered as to why the poll results should turn out the way it did now that everyone was enjoying a better life and he had effected an open consultative style of government.

After pondering a moment, he told activists that he had actually toyed with the idea of dissolving Parliament and calling another election should the PAP lose 20 seats so that Singaporeans could compare life under another political party as a form of "shock therapy".

The bottom-line on "bread-and-butter" issues, which he described as really over "bacon-and-eggs", was that Singaporeans want more subsidies and it was for the party to decide if it should continue its policy to limit subsidies or give more handouts.

If the party decided on the later, it would have to look for another Prime Minister, he said, as this meant he had failed to bring them round to his point of view.

Another misconception that should have been debunked immediately: that the PAP Governemnt was getting richer at the expense of the people.

Yes, it had accumulated surpluses and it now had the "pleasant problem" of how to allocate them to enhance the people's assets, such as sinking it in refurbishing flats, he said.

Concluding with a rallying call to activists, he said: "Whatever the voters may think, whatever the results of the last election, we in the party and Government have done very well.

"There is no need for anyone of us to hang his head low. No need for us to feel ashamed. No need to run away when we are challenged by other people. We can be proud of our achievements and of the fact that we have planned for the future.

"We can hold our head up and look anybody in the eye, either in Singapore or outside Singapore."

Minister Says Foreign Media Ties 'Improving'

BK2011130191 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Nov 91 p 17

[Excerpt] The relationship between the Government and the foreign media is improving because foreign journalists are now clear about Singapore's stand on objective reporting.

"You might have misunderstood us in the past. I do not think you do now," said Minister for Information and the Arts George Yeo at a lunch talk organised by the Foreign Correspondents Association of Singapore.

Speaking on the topic, Singapore and the Foreign Press: The Next Lap, at Raffles Hotel, he said that the Government expected "integrity and detachment" from foreign journalists operating in Singapore, especially those whose newspapers circulated here.

"I assure you that if you act with integrity and detachment, you will find us helpful and courteous," Brigadier-General [BG] (Res) [Reservist] Yeo said with a smile.

But, he added, he was not suggesting that foreign correspondents become "admirers or apologists of Singapore" as that would be self-defeating for the country.

Citing an example of the improved climate, he noted that the circulation of the ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL was recently restored.

It had its circulation cut from 5,000 to 400 copies a day in 1987 after it refused to publish in full a government reply to an article criticising Singapore's second securities market, Sesdaq [Stock Exchange of Singapore Dealing and Automated Quotation].

The JOURNAL, BG Yeo said, had recently invited Finance Minister Richard Hu to be the keynote speaker at a conference it was holding here in January.

Dr Hu declined the invitation as the JOURNAL had not withdrawn its accusation against Sesdaq and the Government was not given the right of an unedited reply.

"So I offered myself to be keynote speaker instead, in order to be friendly to the JOURNAL, and because the Journal had been fair and balanced in its reporting on Singapore over the last two years," BG Yeo said. "If you act with integrity, we will be helpful and courteous.'

In his speech, the minister said that the Government's policy had always been to encourage the foreign press to operate from Singapore.

This was not a whimsical objective as Singapore could only succeed economically if it had the widest access to information, he said.

And while the country had rules against foreign correspondents interfering in domestic politics, these should not affect their ability to operate professionally. [passage omitted]

Shipping Company To Start SRV Services in Dec

BK1911082191 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Nov 91 p 40

[Text] Orient Lines (NOL) will be among the first major local companies to tap the Vietnamese market following the lifting by the Singapore Government over the weekend of its ban on investments in the Indochinese country.

NOL, which has long prepared for such a move, will start freight services between Vietnam and Singapore from next month, said Mr Lim How Teck, chief operating officer of the listed transportation group.

Contacted by THE STRAITS TIMES yesterday, he said that NOL will run a service every 10 days between Ho Chi Minh City and the Republic.

He expects the round service to bring in an initial gross revenue of at least U.S. $300,000 (S [Singapore] $498,000) a month.

It will be operated by a joint venture between NOL and Vietfract—a state-owned shipping company. NOL, through its subsidiary Neptune Agencies, is already the local agent for the Vietnamese company.

For a start, NOL will rely on its Vietnamese partner to provide shipping agency services in Vietnam, he added. The Singapore company does not have plans to station Singaporean staff in the country yet.

Mr Lim said that freight runs will be made on a chartered container vessel with a capacity of 100 to 150 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units).

One reason why NOL intends to charter, instead of purchase a vessel, is that it expects the market to grow rapidly. Chartering provides the flexibility to change the ship quickly to meet increased demand, he said.

He expects to increase the frequency of the service, possibly by introducing a second vessel, in the near future, depending on how quickly demand picks up.

Explaining his company's optimism about the Vietnamese market, he said: "From what we understand, many Taiwanese companies are setting up factories there, and we expect the Americans to follow soon."

Another local giant corporation, Singapore Airlines, is reported to be planning scheduled flights to Vietnam by its wholly-owned subsidary, Tradewinds.

Previous newspaper reports quoted sources as saying that the scheduled flights would take off within the next month of so.

Growth Rate Continues Slowdown in 3rd Quarter

BK1811162291 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Nov 91 p 1

[Excerpt] The economy continued to slow down in the third quarter, growing by just 6.5 percent.

This brought growth for the first nine months to 7.1 percent—still on track however for the official projection of 6.5-7 per cent for the whole year.

Announcing the third quarter economic figures yesterday, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said that for next year, with external prospects still uncertain—including the slower pace of economic recovery in the U.S.—its "tentative" assessment is that the Republic will see 5 to 7 percent growth in 1992.

This 5 to 7 percent range is also the average growth rate which Singapore should be able to achieve in the next five years with upgrading of the workforce and restructuring of the economy, according to Deputy Prime Minister BG [Brigadier General] Lee Hsien Loong at last month's National Business Forum.

The latest survey of business expectations also supports MTI's modest growth projection for next year. It showed that both industrialists and businessmen are "less optimistic" about general business conditions for the six months up to March 1992.

Mr Lan Chuan Leong, MTI's permanent secretary, said that the slowdown in the third quarter occurred in the two largest sectors, manufacturing and financial and business services.

"Because of weaknesses in these two sectors, growth for the whole year would only be around 6.5 to 7 percent," he said.

The major factors hitting the economy were restructuring in the disk drive industry, slowdown in overseas demand and consolidation in the financial market.

The two sectors which recorded the highest growth in the third quarter were construction and commerce, growing by 22.5 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively.

He added that the Singapore economy is "slowing down quarter by quarter," which is not unexpected" given that Singapore's long-term sustainable growth is 4 to 6 percent. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Sihanouk: Peace in Nation Still Very Fragile

BK2011003291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] On 15 November in Phnom Penh, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, told French radio and television reporters that he was extremely moved and proud to stay in Cambodia working for the nation, people, and motherland. He added that there is unparalleled freedom and dignity as a result of his long struggle against the Vietnamese.

Answering questions on the prospect of future peace in Cambodia, he said: Now peace in Cambodia is still very fragile. However, with our drive, our Cambodia in the end will certainly achieve peace with independence and sovereignty.

The samdech further said that he was very happy with the very warm welcome accorded to him by Phnom Penh residents.

Sihanouk, Chea Sim Visit Exhibition Hall 19 Nov

BK2011051791

[Editorial Report] Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 19 November carries a 30-minute report with a portion recorded on the visit made by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and wife to an exhibition hall in Phnom Penh.

The announcer starts by saying that "On the morning of 19 November 1991, Samdech Preah Norodom Shanouk and the royal consort, accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly and of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense's National Council, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and wife, and entourage, visited an exhibition at the National Exhibition Hall."

Upon arriving at the exhibition hall, Sihanouk was warmly greeted by members of the CPP Central Committee and other officials, namely "H.E. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mr. Say Phuthang, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the CPP Central Committee's (?Control Commission); Gen. Bou Thang, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces; Mr. Chea Soth, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mr. Sar Kheng, chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Organization Commission, and chief of the CPP Central Committee's Cabinet; Mr. Say Chhum, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mr. Mat Ly, vice chairman of the National Assembly and of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Gen. Tie Banh, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of national defense; Mr. Nguon Nhel, agriculture minister; Mr. Ney Pena, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Gen. Sin Song, minister of interior; and Mr. Sim Ka, chairman of the Phnom Penh city party committee and people's committee."

After the welcoming ceremony, the samdech and his royal consort, the State of Cambodia leaders, and national and international guests viewed the exhibition. The samdech and his consort were very pleased with the achievements made by the Cambodian people in all fields of national construction and development under the wise leadership of the CPP and State of Cambodia [SOC] Government.

In a 28-minute recorded speech, Sihanouk starts by expressing his "profound gratitude to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and his wife" for inviting him to the exhibition, praises the achievements made under the leadership of the current CPP and SOC Government, expresses his great joy over the opportunity to return to meet his children again, and refers to the decision of the current party and government to link their "national development work" to the mission in the samdech's Sangkum Reas Niyum era, that is "the time when we were united" prior to the coup d'etat of 18 March 1970 by Mr. Lon Nol.

After praising the CPP and SOC Government's efforts in national development following a backward period since the coup d'etat by Lon Nol and the Pol Pot era, Sihanouk says: "The SOC, with H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and H.E. Heng Samrin as leaders, and the CPP have called on me to become the shelter, as in the past, [applause] of our nation, motherland, children and people. They have asked me to be the father of the CPP and the SOC Government. Their Excellencies Chea Sim, Hun Sen, and Heng Samrin have become members of my family, my children. This is a great honor and a great source of happiness for me. I am very lucky that all compatriots and children have been this kind to me."

After talking for a few more minutes about national reunion, Sihanouk says: "Now that we have united as one, we, (?Sihanouk) and the CPP and SOC, must continue this correct policy, strive to defend our national independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity and our people's freedoms, jointly seek ways and unconditional aid from friendly countries around the world, and join hands with the United Nations which is waiting to help us in order to mobilize our national forces, measures, and resources together with the friendship and unencumbered aid from our friends throughout the world to enable our country, our motherland, our beloved Cambodia to progress rapidly and become equally developed as all other countries and have equal honor as other countries—not only the small but the big countries as well."

He then talks for 10 minutes about the all-around national achievements and sacrifices made by the CPP and SOC Government as shown in the exhibition, the suffering of the Cambodian people since the era of Lon Nol and Pol Pot, and his current role as the center of national reconciliation.

Turning back to the aid issue, Sihanouk says: "Anyone, any international organization which wants to give aid should directly contact H.E. Hun Sen, and send it directly to H.E. Hun Sen. I have learned that after receiving this aid successively, H.E. Hun Sen and his government and the CPP have correctly distributed this aid (?to the people). I thank you very much. I can continue seeking (?more) aid, but I will not be the recipient. I will just ask for aid and the donors, countries kindly giving the aid, the United Nations, and other organizations giving the generous aid should send it directly to H.E. Hun Sen, to the authorities of the SOC Government which will correctly distribute it for effective improvement of our people's livelihood, for the prosperity of our country. That is, the aid will be distributed fairly, effectively, and correctly for the (?benefit of) our people." He also says that the Thai delegation which is due to arrive on 20 November will bring more aid to Cambodia.

Sihanouk ends his speech after a 6-minute reiteration of his great joy over his reunion with all children and compatriots as in the old days, saying that he will meet them again tomorrow at the boat-racing festival, and extends best wishes to them.

Sihanouk Receives British Envoy's Credentials

BK2011063091 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0408 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 Nov (SPK)—The chief of the British diplomatic mission, David Burns, on Tuesday presented to Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Phnom Penh his credentials as ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC).

This was the seventh ambassador accredited to the SNC, an organ set up on 10 September last year in Jakarta grouping all rival Cambodian factions. The first six are from France, Australia, Thailand, the DPRK, Japan, and the United States.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman, highly appreciated the efforts of the British Government particularly in the Cambodian peace process.

For his part, David Burns attributed to Prince Sihanouk's own efforts the achievement of the 23 October peace agreement in Paris.

Hun Sen, Ranariddh Speak at Signing of Alliance

BK2111071291 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] On the morning of 20 November at the office of the cabinet of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee a ceremony was held to sign an alliance with the FUNCINPEC party [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], under the lofty chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense. This document was signed by H.E. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, general secretary of the FUNCINPEC movement, with the participation of members of the standing committee of the CPP countries and leading officials of the FUNCINPEC party.

This is a historic event in which the two parties unite as one for the common goal of unifying the nation and building and developing the motherland toward quick progress and glory aimed at bringing peace and happiness to the people.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Hun Sen stresses the following:

[Begin Hun Sen recording] Today, we are happy because the two parties [words indistinct] sign an alliance between the party and the FUNCINPEC movement, represented by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of the Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, who recently returned to the country and has been considered by the People's Party [short for CPP] and the State of Cambodia's Government as the father of the entire nation as well as the CPP.

On this occasion, I would like to solemnly declare that the agreement signed at this ceremony will become an (?invaluable) cooperation between the two parties aimed at implementing well the agreement on a political solution in order to ensure (?stability) [words indistinct]. Prince and Excellencies, please trust the spirit of sincerity and good cooperation between our two parties, namely the FUNCINPEC and the CPP. [end Hun Sen recording] [applause]

Afterward, Prince Norodom Ranariddh made a speech stressing:

[Begin Ranariddh recording] [passsage indistinct] a sucessful day, the day when the CPP and the FUNCINPEC movement with me as representative sign an alliance between Cambodian nationalist political movements. For a long time, our leaders, like myself, have thought about the [words indistinct] this alliance since I had the opportunity to get to know H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen when we held talks to solve the so-called Cambodian problem.

[passage indistinct] parties, namely our two political movements [words indistinct]. The second stage, we have signed an agreement in Paris on 23 October [words indistinct] invited the samdech to return to the motherland to the warmest welcome from the children [words indistinct] entire Cambodian nation. H.E. Chairman Chea Sim clearly said at the (?mass meeting) and as H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen has just kindly recalled, the CPP considers Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk as the father of the CPP. For this reason, we, who for many years have considered ourselves as direct children of the samdech euv, the people do not understand why these two parties—which stand on the same lofty national ideals—the samdech euv [passage indistinct].

In conclusion, I, on behalf of the FUNCINPEC movement, pledge to their excellencies here that this agreement is based on the most sincere goodwill. As the samdech has said, he very much wants his (?children) to unite in order to strengthen peace, freedom, happiness, prosperity, progress, and stability in our beloved and sacred motherland and people [words indistinct]. He also said that he will warmly support 100 percent the alliance between [words indistinct]. I hope that our two united movements [words indistinct] forever and a guarantee for the happiness for our Cambodian people. [?If we are united], no enemies can cause problems or commit violations againt our Cambodia. And all of us [words indistinct] to serve the royal mission of the Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and lead it to 100 percent success. We have the duty [words indistinct]. Thank you. [end Ranariddh recording] [applause]

Thai Foreign Minister Asa Arrives in Phnom Penh

BK2011041291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0323 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 20 (AFP)—The first foreign minister from a country that supported rebels fighting the Phnom Penh government for 13 years arrived here Wednesday.

Thailand's Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin arrived on a military C-130 transport plane for a three-day visit.

He was expected to sign agreements concerning agriculture, and the return of 350,000 Cambodian refugees who are living in camps on the Thai side of the border with Cambodia.

Thailand had supported the Khmer Rouge and its allied resistance factions during a 13-year civil war, which ended with the signing of a peace agreement last month.

Asa was accompanied by Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun and Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon.

He was greeted by Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, and was to have an audience with Prince Norodom Sihanouk later in the day.

Prince Sihanouk returned from exile last week to head an interim body called the Supreme National Council (SNC), which joins the Phnom Penh government with the resistance under United Nations supervision.

Five members of the Khmer Rouge faction also arrived Wednesday aboard a commercial plane from Bangkok.

Khieu Samphan, an SNC member whose presence is necessary before the council can meet, was not among the group.

Hor Namhong met briefly with the Khmer Rouge group, whose top-ranking member was a military official named Mao Savy, before greeting Asa.

Calls on Prince Sihanouk

BK2011144191 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] A Thai delegation led by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin paid a courtesy call on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, in Phnom Penh. Included in the delegation are Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun, Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon, Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun, and representatives from various agencies. The delegation arrived at the Pochentong Airport in Phnom Penh this morning aboard on an Air Force C-130 plane. They were welcomed by Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the Phnom Penh government. This is the first visit to Cambodia by a ministerial-level delegation.

Asa Sarasin called on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC, at the Khemarin Palace. A letter of credentials appointing Major General Nawet Na Nong Khai as a special envoy to Prince Norodom Sihanouk was also presented to the prince on the occasion. Prince Norodom Sihanouk thanked Thailand and the Thai Government for helping in the restoration of peace to Cambodia.

Talking to reporters later, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said his visit is a show of support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the SNC, which is regarded as the highest Cambodian institution under the Paris peace accord. The foreign minister added that the two documents to be signed tomorrow will benefit both countries.

The Thai Government's aid to Cambodia is worth about 90 million baht and covers medicine, health, agriculture, banking, and technological training programs. Asa Sarasin was also invited by Prince Norodom Sihanouk to preside over the opening ceremony of the regatta, an important annual festival of Cambodia, at the floating pavilion on the Tonle Sap river. There were a large crowd of Cambodian people witnessing the regatta.

Urges Fair Business Dealings

BK2111023191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Nov 91 p 9

[Text] Phonom Penh—Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin urged Thai businessmen not to take advantage of Cambodia, while the Thai Government pledged continuous support for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

The minister appealed to Thai businessmen to view themselves as representatives of the kingdom entrusted with the responsibility of building credibility.

"I urge businessmen to consider what Cambodia will gain from the process as well," he said.

The Thai Government is concerned about the conduct of Thai businessmen, who are rushing in to cash in on the new transition to peace in Cambodia.

It does not want the image of the country to be tarnished by unscrupulous profiteering, as has sometimes been the case in the past, Thai officials said.

"We do not want anything but friendship and to promote trade and economic cooperation that is mutually beneficial," Mr Asa said.

The Foreign Minister became the first foreign dignitary to visit Phnom Penh since the home-coming on November 14 of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council.

In Mr Asa's delegation which arrived at Pochentong Airport for a three-day official visit yesterday were Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangku and Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon.

During the audience of the Thai delegation with Prince Sihanouk at the Royal Palace yesterday, Maj-Gen Nawet na Nong Khai was officially accredited as special envoy to Prince Sihanouk.

The prince expressed his "most affectionate gratitude" to Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and called Maj-Gen Nawet "my younger brother," for taking care of Cambodian royalty during their visits to Thailand since 1982.

Maj-Gen Nawet and his wife will stay in the Kantobopha a building in the palace grounds named after the prince's favourite daughter, who died of leukaemia in 1952.

Prince Sihanouk asked Mr Asa if Maj-Gen Nawet could accompany him "everywhere, I need somebody in uniform around me... for prestige."

The prince said the naming of Maj-Gen Nawet as a special envoy "means relations are very close and very special. Other countries have only an ambassador, not a special envoy."

Prime Minister Hun Sen and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, who are members of the SNC from the Phnom Penh government, were present during the audience.

Speaking to reporters, Mr Asa said he brought with him the "goodwill and sincerity" of Thailand for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

"Thai policy is clear... we have exercised efforts to improve ties with our neighbours. We have begun the process with Laos, Vietnam and now Cambodia. This is indeed the first time since World War II that we have had peace in this neighbourhood and we will cultivate relationships that will benefit all," he said.

Mr Asa brought with him medicine and aid items from the Public Health Ministry and the Thai Red Cross to present to Cambodia at a ceremony today.

Thailand has proposed rebuilding the 48-kilometre road between Poipet and Sisophon for 70 million baht.

The road would facilitate the repatriation of over 300,000 Khmer refugees from Thai border camps. In the long run, it will enable trade and other exchanges between the two countries, Mr Asa said.

In addition, the Thai Government allocated 20.6 million baht for technical assistance and human resources development in Cambodia, for a total aid to Cambodia of 90.5 million baht.

"We want to cooperate in these activities, although our contribution may be small," he said.

Thailand "feels honoured" to have played a role in restoring peace, and will continue to fully support implementation of the UN peace plan, as well as the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia, he added.

Prince Sihanouk has repeatedly said he wanted Cambodia to follow the example of Thailand, he said. "Cambodia is no longer communist, it has embraced capitalism."

"We must accept that socialism doesn't work. Capitalism, though not perfect, is better than socialism," he said.

The minister joined the prince and foreign dignitaries in a sala in front of the Royal Palace by the Tonle Sap to watch a long-tail boat race as part of the annual three-day Water Festival, which started yesterday.

Prince Sihanouk and Mr Asa will sign a joint communique today outlining the strong, cooperative relationship between Thailand and Cambodia.

After the signing, a tripartite memorandum of understanding on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees will be signed by the Foreign Minister, Prince Sihanouk and a representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Refugee Memorandum Signed 21 Nov

BK2111115291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1059 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK, Nov. 21—Cambodia, Thailand and the High Commissioner for Refugees [HCR] signed here in Phnom Penh this afternoon a memorandum on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

The tripartite memorandum was signed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC; Asa Sarasin, Thai foreign minister; and HCR Director of Asia Department from Geneva Mr. J. Anvars.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Prince Norodom Sihanouk thanked the Royal Government of Thailand and the UNHCR for giving sanctuaries and humanitarian aid to more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees over the past years.

He also requested Thailand to continue to take care of them while they are waiting to return to Cambodia.

The prince, who returned here on November 14 to preside over the coming session of the SNC, said that the repatriated refugees would be placed in suitable sites and provided with jobs so as to ensure their proper living conditions.

To ensure safety for the repatriates, groups of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) recently arrived here for conducting, among other work, the mine clearance for the repatriation of some 300,000 Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand.

Medicines, Aid Provided to SNC

BK2111123091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1054 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Nov. 21 - Thailand has provided 9.5 tons of medicines to the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia.

The aid was handed over in Phnom Penh Thursday to SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk by Thai Forign Minister Asa Sarasin, who is on a current visit here.

The aid included nine tons of pharmaceutical products worth about million baht [as received] donated by the Thai Government and the remaining 500 kilogrammes of medicines, mosquito nets, and canned food provided by the Thai Red Cross Society.

Thailand will offer funds to repair the portion of Highway 5 linking the border town of Poipet to the town of Sisophon. The cost of the reparation is estimated at 70 million baht, according to the Thai foreign minister.

Mr. Asa Sarasin also extended an invitation to the prince to pay a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Japanese, Thais Reported Probing for Investments

BK1911045591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Nov 91 p 4

[Text] Phnom Penh—Thailand has the knowledge about Cambodia, Japan has the know-how. With these strengths combined, they can form a formidable force to compete with others in future trade and investment in Cambodia.

At this stage when peace is being introduced to Cambodia through the UN plan signed in Paris last month, Japanese enterprises, big and small, are investigating the situation in Cambodia, gathering data about the size of the market, the economy, the potential, and devising future strategies.

From last year until the signing of peace agreements in October, practically all internationally known companies and countless other medium and small enterprises have shuttled into Cambodia, in the absence of Japanese Government backing. Thorough studies and data collection have taken place while they awaited the green light—Official Development Assistance (ODA)—to pour into this war-ravaged country.

Just as the Japanese business sector identified ODA as a guarantee against investment risks, beckoning economic expansion, the Thais thought the imminent presence of UN in Cambodia was enough to warrant good prospects for immediate terms.

Japan's Ambassador to Cambodia Yuko Imagaza, who became formally accredited to the Supreme National Council yesterday, insisted that he could not say exactly when and how much Japan can provide ODA loans, grants and credits for Cambodia.

Before the peace agreement was signed, the Japanese business sector enjoyed total freedom to contact, cooperate or invest in Cambodia but "100 per cent at their own risk," Ambassador Imagawa said.

Although the peace treaty virtually tore down the political barriers for Japanese business activities, Japanese businessmen thought Cambodia was not an immediately attractive place for investment for a number of practical reasons.

After over 16 years of devastation since the Khmer Rouge reign of terror and the Vietnamese occupation, Cambodia is a severely impoverished nation with limited purchasing power, although Phnom Penh has lately been prosperous. The country does not have a financial system to facilitate transactions, import and export.

There is no law to protect investment against nationalisation. These factors made Japanese enterprises think hard about getting active.

"For the moment, the pie is limited. They are waiting for the government to resume ODA, which will mostly grant aids to Cambodia," the ambassador said.

Japan has pledged to play an active role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Cambodia.

According to Ambassador Imagawa, private survey missions from Japan have been in Cambodia since last year and they have equipped the Japanese private sector with a remarkable wealth of information. "They know about the economic situation, the needs of Cambodia better than we do," he said.

Another important aspect, according to trade sources, is that the Japanese have sought to establish connections and contacts with the Phnom Penh Administration.

Presently, a Japanese company called Odaka Timber is operating Cambodia's most sophisticated timber processing facility on the bank of the Tonle Sap. By far this is the only substantial Japanese investment in Cambodia, in additon to concessions for off-shore oil exploration acquired by Nissho Iwai.

But the outlook is a promising one.

When all the necessary elements are in place, most importantly the arrival of ODA and the gradual recovery of Cambodia's economy, the Japanese and Thais will be perfect partners to do business and invest in Cambodia, Ambassador Imagawa said.

A prominent Thai businessman recently in town to cultivate connections for future investment deals said he viewed the advantage of Thailand more in its location. Goods and equipment needed for the reconstruction of Cambodia, and future flow of products will be transported through the Phnom Penh-Poipet route, he said. Poipet is opposite the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet.

"Japanese companies will be strong here if they cooperate with their Thai counterparts. Japan has long experience in Thailand but they have no experience in Cambodia. Besides, some of the Japanese companies have good, intimate relationships with Thai partners," said the ambassador.

Nevertheless, he stressed that joint Thai-Japanese investment activities in Cambodia will not come about in the near future, at least over the next couple of years.

Regarding ODA for Cambodia, Japan needs from the Cambodian authorities a list of projects in order of priority. For this purpose, a mission from the Japanese Government will be in Phnom Penh around January to conduct "serious consultations and negotiations with the SNC" about a project list for ODA.

Cambodia is in dire need of humanitarian aid for medicare, public health and the reintegration of over 350,000 refugees. Next, Cambodia would need to reinstall basic social infrastructure such as housing and schools. Efforts can then be made on agricultural development.

Ambassador Imagawa said that although ODA projects may require procurement and contracts with Japanese companies, the ODA activities are not considered an investment by the Japanese private sector.

The decision makers for ODA are the powerful ministries of Finance, International Trade and Industry, and Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Imagawa said the Japanese Government cannot be endlessly generous in showering Cambodia with aid. The spending must be justified by a reasonable list of projects with proper order of priority, taking into account Japan's own pocket.

In preparation for the trip of the mission, the government headquarters in Tokyo is also conducting policy planning for economic aid and cooperation with Cambodia, according to Ambassador Imagawa.

So far he has received no request from the Phnom Penh administration, which controls over 90 percent of the country. Although Japan will have to deal significantly with the Phnom Penh Government, the ambassador said, Tokyo will not rule out "reasonable requests" for ODA activities in areas controlled by the resistance factions.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe last August visited Phnom Penh while he was a parliamentarian holding no Cabinet position. During his visit here, he met with Prime Minister Hun Sen and Phnom Penh's strongman Chea Sim.

Asked to comment on the activities of France which is aggressively staking a claim over its former colony, Ambassador Imagawa said what the French are doing is very good for Cambodia, and that France is very familiar with the Cambodian psychology.

"Compared with the French and the Thai, the Japanese are very shy having a very small presence here," said the ambassador. "Japan may be later than others, but we are very sincere."

Banker Warns Foreign Investors About Problems

BK1711113591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0205 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By SHERI PRASSO]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 17 (AFP)—With the return of peace and Prince Norodom Sihanouk to Cambodia, ethnic Chinese businessmen are leading a foreign plunge into investment here.

Thai, Japanese, Australian and French companies have all made major investments, encouraged by the prospects for profit in rebuilding war-battered Cambodia.

"But no one is happier about the situation than the Chinese," said one Western diplomat. "They're buying everything."

An ethnic Chinese merchant class flourished here during Prince Sihanouk's pre-1970 rule, but thousands fled or were killed under the Khmer Rouge regime—which tried to "purify" the Khmer race by eliminating foreigners and their influences.

The prince returned last week however following the siging of a peace treaty.

With the lure of money to be made, those Chinese-Khmer who took refuge in Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan and Singapore—and made fortunes in the meantime—are returning with full pockets.

"These people are transferring their money base here because they feel very confident" that the peace will last, said Cambodian-born businessman Hui Keung, whose money helped build the luxury Hotel Cambodiana, where he is chairman of the board.

Hui said he was invited by his personal friend Prime Minister Hun Sen to return from Hong Kong in 1988 and set up the hotel. Now he advises other Chinese investors on where to put their money.

"There are a lot coming now, especially in the last seven or eight months," said Hui, who speaks Mandarin and Cantonese as well as Khmer, the language of most Cambodians.

Much of the investment is in the tourism and hotel industry. Hong Kong-based Cambodian businessman Sour Srun is spending 45 million dollars to renovate the three-star Phnom Penh Hotel.

Figures are difficult to obtain because deals are being done on a handshake and millions are traded without a contract.

The Ministry of Planning's National Committee for Foreign Investment has received 200 project applications from 100 foreign companies in its four months of operation, its chairman Hul Lim said.

Investment of five to 10 million dollars are expected for most projects, except for three major oil exploration projects signed in the past month, he said.

Officials from the seven oil companies involved have said the three projects would be worth 25 million to 30 million dollars each over (word indistinct) years.

Of 69 government-run factories offered for privatization, 40 have been leased to private companies—about 30 percent to overseas Cambodians, 60 percent to other foreigners and 10 percent to local Cambodians—including a brewery, a tire plant and a textile factory, Hul Lim said.

A dozen ethnic Chinese Cambodians living in Thailand, Australia, the United States, Canada and France got together in Bangkok last year to discuss investment in Cambodia.

The company that emerged, TJR Ltd., has put together a detailed plan for investment in industries such as energy production, telecommunications and manufacturing.

While other foreign companies are looking for short-term profit, the company's marketing director Patrick Irwin said TJR has a long-range approach.

"The philosophy of the company is for long-term investment and to encourage overseas Cambodians to return to Cambodia," he said.

As for the possibility that peace will be temporary despite a treaty ending a 13-year civil war, "We're prepared to take the risk."

Despite the optimism, there are concerns that a flood of unrestrained investment could distort the economy more than help it.

"Our biggest concern is to control the situation, to keep it normal," said National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim in a recent interview. "It is also our concern that it is progrersing too quickly, but I hope its evolution will be within our framework of control."

Cambodia's investment law, which is still awaiting approval by red-tape bound ministries, contains wide loopholes.

Article 37, for example, requires foreign investors transferring profits abroad to pay a tax of five to 10 percent of the amount, except in "exceptional cases where encouragement of investment is needed."

"Personally, I'm afraid the government is too lenient," said a senior economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) who spoke on condition he not be named.

The government should lay out guidelines to channel foreign capital into the sectors that most need development, he said.

Controls on foreign exchange trading are also needed, the economist said during a recent trip here to study the resumption of ADB lending.

Aid from Western-aligned countries was suspended after Vietnam invaded Cambodia to oust the Khmer Rouge regime and install a client government in 1979.

The United States announced after the signing of a United Nations-brokered peace accord last month that it would lift its economic embargo.

In addition to Chinese investors, Japanese and Thai companies are moving in en masse. Timber firm Okada Co., for example, invested 5.5 million dollars in a sawmill near Phnom Penh, and Thailand's Fuldaa Corp. has contracted to rebuild Cambodia's only international airport.

One of the three oil exploration projects will be carried out by a Hungarian firm, Nawa Oil Co.

"We are having a rapid and overwhelming influx of foreign capital, of capitalism ... and they are not ready to absorb it," said Hungarian Ambassador Tamas Lajos in a recent interview.

"If my son eats 10 kilograms of chocolate, he's not able to digest it," he said. "It's the same thing."

As foreign companies move in to invest, he warned, Cambodia had better be prepared to handle it.

"Cambodians must understand that economic domination is no better than political domination," he said.

Relations With PRC Said Improved Since Accord

BK2111025191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Nov 91 p A8

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon reporting from Phnom Penh]

[Text] Barely a month since the signing of the Cambodian peace accord, China has quickly recovered ground it lost during a 13-year absence.

The Chinese diplomats, who came here last week, immediately made their presence felt. Rather than staying in Phnom Penh hotels, they chose to immediately return to their old embassy, which had been used by the Defence Ministry as a guesthouse.

Yang Yaozong, first secretary of Chinese Foreign Ministry's Asian Division, expressed satisfaction with the condition of the embassy, which is expected to open early next month when Fu Xuezhang, the Chinese ambassador-designate to the Cambodian Supreme National Council, will present his credentials to Prince Norodom Sihanouk. This will be followed by a visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

In return, the Chinese government has offered US$30,000 (Bt768,000) to Phnom Penh as a token for "taking care" of its embassy. It is not known whether Phnom Penh has accepted the offer.

It all seems ironic, for just a few months ago China was militarily supporting the Khmer Rouge, which has been fighting the Phnom Penh government since they were swept out of power by Vietnamese forces in early 1979.

China has also pledged to give 15-20 tonnes of humanitarian aid supplies to Phnom Penh to help flood victims. An agreement on the aid was worked out during a meeting between Defence Minister Gen Tie Banh and Yang on Nov 13.

Meanwhile, Chinese journalists have been in town to report on the ethnic Chinese community living in Phnom Penh and have held discussions with local Chinese leaders.

China's reappearance on the scene in Phnom Penh was the result of calculated diplomatic moves began in September 1990 during peace talks in Jakarta, where representatives of Phnom Penh and Beijing met for the first time. A second meeting took place at the Chinese embassy a week later, after Thai encouragement.

The two meetings were followed by repeated overtures by Phnom Penh calling for a dialogue with Beijing. Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said last December that Phnom Penh wanted China to listen to its views and positions on the Cambodia war.

Shortly afterward, National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim appointed a group of well-known local Chinese merchants to form an 11-member board to represent the interest of the 50,000-80,000-strong Chinese community. The Overseas Chinese Association in Cambodia was established a few days later.

Since then, the Chinese here have enjoyed new freedoms such as the right to celebrate Chinese New Year's and practice ancestor worship, as well as to reopen Chinese shrines and to open a Chinese school.

The revival of Tuan Hua—the most famous Chinese-language school during the Sihanouk period, which was shut down by Gen Lon Nol—has however been postponed indefinitely. Chinese community leaders want their children to study Chinese and had set their priority on the opening of Tuan Hua.

A Chinese community leader, who asked not to be named, said that present occupants of the former Chinese school have refused to move out from the premise. He said that last month, the association's board members met with Chea Sim to discuss Tuan Hua's future.

The association, which paid a large sum as a deposit several months ago to secure the former school and compensate the present occupants, was urged by Chea Sim to look for a new location. The school is expected to enroll at least 1,000-2,000 young students in its first year.

The Chinese community leaders have said that without an appropriate site it would be hard to reopen a Chinese language school. One of the leaders said it would probably take about US$50,000 to secure a new place, which was next to impossible for the association. Already, some of them have pinned their hopes on the Chinese embassy for assistance.

Under Sihanouk, the Chinese community flourished and played an active part in Cambodia's economy. Tuan Hua Chinese school, which gave current local leaders their Chinese education, has an history spanning over 60 years. It was first set up in the 1930's by a group of leading Chiense businessmen.

The size of the Chinese community reached a record high of 425,000, or 6 per cent of the population, in the early 1960's when Sihanouk was still in power. Of the total number of Chinese in Cambodia in the 1960s, 95 per cent were merchants. Sihanouk's government was given help by 2,000 Chinese technocrats working for him. But during the Khmer Rouge's 1975-78 reign, the number of the Chinese residents was reduced to 40,000.

The moves to improve Chinese community's freedom and the revival of Tuan Hua school have coincided with Phnom Penh's effort to improve ties with Beijing and to distance the Khmer Rouge from its Chinese patron.

Phnom Penh-based diplomats believe China will play a greater role in the future here, as the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries no longer provide assistance to Cambodia. It appears that China will provide techncial and financial resources to reactivate Cambodia's discarded industries.

China has also shown keen interest in reviving five industrial projects that were built with aid form Beijing in the past. Among these are a cement factory in Kampot, a textile factory in Kampong Cham, and paper-pulp, pine-wood and glass factories in Phnom Penh's suburbs.

Furthermore, China's future participation in development projects in the upper Mekong River will place it into the mainstream of mainland Southeast Asia development as never before.

While other counties, Thailand included, build up their presences here slowly and cautiously, Sino-Cambodian ties have already begun to flourish.

Ties With Laos Seen 'Withering' in Past Months

BK2011034591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Nov 91 p A8

[Text] Cordial relations between mainland Southeast Asia's smallest and poorest nations, Cambodia and Laos, have been shaken by recent events in Cambodia: the Cambodian peace accord and its swift political changes.

Relations between Laos and Cambodia have for many years been focused mainly on political issues related to the Cambodian conflict. Throughout the 13-year conflict, Vientiane saw its support as part of Indochina's solidarity and historical links among ruling communist parties in the three Indochinese countries.

A Cambodian foreign ministry official, who served in Laos for four years, said his country and Laos are "good and honest" friends, who do not have any mutual problem.

But in the past few months, their relations have been withering, as each nation refocuses its foreign policy toward the West and Thailand. When it was clear the Cambodian settlement was nearly agreed, Laos, which has maintained close relations with the West, intensified its diplomatic efforts overseas to secure more foreign assistance from the West and Japan. At the same time Phnom Penh's leaders are trying to win more support from abroad.

Some Lao leaders are apparently worried the world is going to pass by this landlocked country. When deputy Prime Minister Khampoui Keoboulapha attended the annual World Bank meeting in Bangkok recently, he cautioned that the West should not divert its assistance from developing countries to the Soviet Union. Now, with peace in Cambodia, all the attention that could have been focused on Laos will now shift to its southern neighbour, the leaders contend. "Laos is stable, unlike Cambodia, which needs all the help it can to rebuild the war-ravaged land," said the Asian diplomat.

"In the past few years, the number of non-government organizations [NGO's] helping Laos has increased. Now there are 60 NGOs in Phnom Penh," said a relief worker, working for one of the two dozen relief organizations in Laos.

The helps explain why both Laos and Cambodia are anxious to see the progress of the Mekong Committee, which began discussions last week in Bangkok, after more than 15 years of inertia due mainly to the political situation in Cambodia. Mekong projects would keep Laos, along with Cambodia, alive and well in the minds of international aid agencies and strengthen their bilateral cooperation.

However, the Cambodia official said the prevailing changes in Phnom Penh and the presence of United Nations' peace-keeping forces would make Cambodia a more internationalized country than Laos. "Cambodia is already free with a multi-party system and everybody is coming in," he said.

A Vientiane-based Japanese diplomat, whose country provides more than 50 per cent of Western aid to Laos, dismissed the idea that Cambodia's political liberalization would have any effect here. "The peace settlement in Cambodia is based on the cooperation of the four factions, so it must be a multi-party system," he commented. Laos has rejected the idea of political pluralism since the current communist leaders came to power in 1975.

Both countries' foreign ministries have been close due to their political cooperation during the Cambodian peace negotiations. Cambodian leaders used Vientiane as their contact point with the outside world. Laotian embassies around the world, except India and those other nations recognizing Phnom Penh, handled the interests of Phnom Penh.

Apart from the political cooperation, there has been very little, if any, substantial bilateral cooperation. Among the top Phnom Penh leaders is Nou Beng, who is vice chairman of Cambodia's National Assembly and a reminder of good Cambodia-Lao relations. Nou Beng is an ethnic Lao leader from Strung Treng bordering southern Laos.

Cambodia-Lao trade relations are very marginal, restricted to trading in logs and items such as crepe rubber, dried food, vegetables and jungle products. Most trading has taken place at the border between Laos' southern province of Champassak and Cambodia's northern province of Strung Treng. Given the green areas straddling along Cambodia-Lao border, trade in logs doubtlessly is a major item. Laos imports most of the logs and jungle products for re-export to Thailand.

Tourism cooperation between the two countries, which began in earnest in 1985, has been slow due to the lack of facilities and hotel accommodation. Now, through third party investment and cooperation, the tourism industry is gaining momentum once again. Combined tours of the two countries are available in Bangkok.

Laos has sent a dozen students to study Khmer art and dance in the past several years as part of an exchange programme. Cambodian students have been given scholarships to study the Lao language.

In recent years, exchanges of official visits have gradually decreased. In the past one and half years, there have been only few senior official visits, except during the Laos party congress in March when Phnom Penh leader Heng Samrin attended the party congress in Vientiane. When Phnom Penh held its national congress in October, no top Vietnamese or Lao leaders were present. This year exchange visits were restricted to just the party's youth organizations and sport exchanges. Recently, the Phnom Penh-Vientiane Shop in Phnom Penh near the Olympic market was closed.

Within the foreseeable future, relations between the two countries will be at a standstill as Cambodia is going through an interim period after the peace settlement, and Laos is attempting to readjust to the fast-changing regional scene.

CPP Issues Instructions on Sihanouk, Changes

BK2111102091 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[20 November "Circular of the Standing Committee of the CPP [Cambodian People's Party] Central Committee"—read by announcer]

[Text] In a spirit of national reconciliation aimed at bringing peace back to the motherland and in sincere implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia dated 23 October 1991, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] have done their best with the greatest sincerity in order to confer honor on, and create all favorable conditions for the return of, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, his royal consort, and other members of his royal family who have decided to come back home at this time in order to join with our SOC and other members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] on the road toward achieving durable peace and national reconstruction. This undertaking, which began on 14 November 1991, has been very successful and has greatly pleased the samdech, who has become very confident in the sincerity and efficiency of our party and state. For this reason, the samdech has accorded our regime honor, truth, and fairness by publicly announcing his faith in the correct and wise leadership of our CPP and SOC Government since the liberation of the country in 1979. This constitutes a source of common pride for our whole nation. The samdech has expressed great satisfaction with the current political line of our party and state, regarding it as the continuation of the policy of the Sangkum Reas Niyum party that he had led before 1970. He also publicly promised to respect, and not to interfere in, the affairs of our SOC Government.

Besides the samdech's neutral and realistic stance, which accords with the national reconciliation policy of our CPP, his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in his capacity of the general secretary of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], has decided to form an alliance of friendship with our CPP, while Prince Chakkrapong, another of the samdech's sons, has decided with our approval to work for the Government of the SOC.

In such an auspicious ambience, the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee would like to issue the following instructions:

The Propaganda and Education Commission of the CPP Central Committee must cooperate with all provincial and municipal party committees and all party committees subordinate to the Central Committee, as well as their propaganda apparatuses, in order to make photocopies, audio-recordings, and videotapings of all ceremonies attended and remarks made by the samdech, as well as the contents of the speeches by His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and other leaders during the 14 November 1991 banquet and the 16 November 1991 mass rally and at other functions that have already taken place so far and that will take place in the future; included also is the statement of the CPP and SOC Government dated 19 November 1991, declaring support for the retention of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's pre-18 March 1970 coup d'etat title as the legal and legitimate chief of state of all of Cambodia. These will be made in order to widely and thoroughly spread them among the masses of cadres, employees, workers, and people.

In general, it is imperative to muster the combined forces of the party and the entire nation to support the samdech's royal activities in the interest of national reconciliation and in defense of the national gains and have them regard the samdech as the father, the samdech euv of the nation and of our CPP.

At the same time, the Propaganda and Education Commission of the Central Committee must cooperate on, and take direct part in, controlling and overseeing the publicities made by all propaganda apparatuses in conformity with both the spirit of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and the spirit of national reconciliation, seeing to it especially that they accord with the auspicious ambience generated by the samdech's royal decision to reside permanently in Cambodia.

All sectors and levels must thoroughly study and implement the instructions made by H.E. the chairman of the Council of Ministers in Phnom Penh on 8 November 1991. Among others, they must correctly implement the 23 October 1991 peace agreement and create all favorable conditions for the cooperation and alliance of forces with FUNCINPEC for the sake of peace and national reconciliation and for the enhancement of the truth concerning Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and our party.

For the immediate future, all provinces, municipalities, ministries, and institutions must do their best to make advance preparations to accord a welcome to, and provide absolute security for, all the royal visits to be made by the samdech to whatever places he wishes to go. They must also report to the samdech on the accessability of these places, or otherwise, in order to get his royal instructions.

Correctly implement the letter and spirit of the cease-fire that is in place; pay attention to consolidating the police forces and enhancing cooperation in order to make use of the combined forces of the masses of the people so as to maintain political stability and social order; pay attention to providing accommodation and protection for the members of the SNC and experts working in Phnom Penh.

Cooperate with all forces, both inside and outside the country, in order to oppose and prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime; refrain, however, from doing anything that might affect the implementation of the Paris agreement and the spirit of national reconciliation.

Strive to carry out well all of the socioeconomic undertakings; pay attention to the daily life of the general public; reduce and prevent to the maximum all negative social phenomena.

Make advance preparations for coping with the repatriation of the refugees by suitably and fully cooperating with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Protect the present ownership of the people and push for the issuance of administrative procedures on ownership.

To the best of one's ability, seek aid from all circles and distribute it fairly and directly to the people.

Strive to attract investment money and give assurances to all companies that have invested, or may invest, in our country that their contracts will be honored.

Cooperate with the United Nations in order to prevent violations, especially armed violations, of the agreement, and create favorable conditions for UN personnel, including military, police, and civilians, so that they can successfully carry out their mission.

Along with striving to fulfil the above immediate tasks, it is imperative to continue focusing on educating the people on the contents of the political platform of our party that was adopted during the extraordinary congress last October; for this is the political line that accords very well with the circumstances of the situation in the country and the global tendency of the world at present and that is winning wide support from all circles in the country and abroad.

The cadres must pay attention to doing research and study on new thinking and new analyses, and must intelligently adapt themselves to the rapidly developing new situation with the goal of serving the interests of the motherland and the ideals of the party, considering it all as a new criterion for cadres.

Therefore, all levels and sectors must closely examine and scrutinize all affairs in their respective offices according to the principles that have lately been enunciated.

All provincial and municipal party committees and all other party committees subordinate to the Central Committee must correctly implement the already defined procedure of presenting reports and requesting advice.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 20 November 1991
For the Standing Committee of the Central Committee
[Signed] Chairman Chea Sim

Sihanouk Calls Hun Sen 'Remarkable Leader'

*BK2111100291 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0850 GMT 21 Nov 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Nov.21—Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here today a newly elected government would probably be Prime Minister Hun Sen's government again.

Prince Sihanouk, who called Mr. Hun Sen his royal son, acknowledged that the Government of the State of Cambodia was bad, but the least bad and not the worst, as compared with the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique and the horrible regime of Pol Pot.

Prince Sihanouk, who was elected the chairman of the Supreme National Council set up in Jakarta in September last year, returned to Phnom Penh on November 14 after 13 years living in exile.

He told a press conferecce held at the Royal Palace here this morning that the Cambodian People's Party led by Chairman Chea Sim and the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] led by his royal son Prince Ranariddh had already signed an agreement on their cooperation.

On the selection of eminent leaders and parties for the future government, Prince Sihanouk said the people give their judgment through the general election. However, he recognised Prime Minister Hun Sen as a remarkable leader.

Referring to a VOA report that there was some confusion in the SNC, the prince said he was the SNC chairman and recognized as the legal head of state of the whole Cambodia by all factions.

He noted that His Excellency Heng Samrin remains president of the Phnom Penh government's faction which is controlling more than 80 percent of Cambodia's terriory.

KPNLF's Son Sann, Ieng Mouli Arrive 21 Nov

BK2111053691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and Mr. Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the KPNLF executive committee and SNC member left Bangkok this morning for Phnom Penh in order to begin working within the framework of the SNC according to the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

The KPNLF, a noncommunist movement supported by liberal democratic countries, issued a press communique on Wednesday, 20 November, calling on all Cambodian parties to closely cooperate with the United Nations to fully implement the Paris accord. This communique also says the KPNLF will respect the Paris accord so as to ensure durable peace, national independence, territorial integrity, neutrality, and the progress of the Cambodian people within the framework of the SNC, which is the unique legitimate organ and source of power in Cambodia in the transitional period during which Cambodia should be sovereign, independent, and united.

On his trip to Phnom Penh today, His Excellency Son Sann is accompanied by his wife; Mr. Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the KPNLF executive committee and member of the SNC; Son Soubert, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of foreign affairs; General Chum Chheang, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of the Interior Ministry; Gen. Sangva De Lopez, adviser to the KPNLF president on security; Pol Ham, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of the Information Ministry; and four assistants of the SNC members.

Son Sann Makes Arrival Statement

OW2111050791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0448 GMT 21 Nov 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov. 21 KYODO—Former Cambodian nationalist premier Son Sann arrived in Phnom Penh on Thursday to join other rebel group leaders in a national reconciliation body aimed at restoring peace in the war-ravaged country.

"We are deeply moved to be back, after so many years, in Phnom Penh," said Son Sann, who returned to the Cambodian capital for the first time since May 1974.

But he "cannot be totally happy" when there are still many political prisoners in jail without trial, he said in an arrival statement.

"I am coming back here with specific objectives in mind—to continue to work for the peace and prosperity of the Cambodian people."

Son Sann, 80, was accompanied by his top aide, Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), and nine other members of the noncommunist faction.

The two are members of the 12-man Supreme National Council (SNC), an interim body representing Cambodian sovereignty until free elections are held under a United Nations-brokered peace plan signed in Paris this month.

Son Sann told reporters he understands the recently announced alliance between SNC head Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh government because he is a democrat and his party supports democracy.

"But we would like ... every party to understand that national reconciliation is absolutely necessary for the peace of Cambodia," he added.

He endorsed Wednesday's declaration by the Phnom Penh government and ruling party that restored Sihanouk, a former Cambodian monarch, as head of state.

"He is still the chief of the SNC and, as such, he is the chief of all Cambodia, of four Cambodian parties," Son Sann said.

Another noncommunist rebel group, led by Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and the communist Khmer Rouge are also represented on the SNC, together with Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan is the only SNC member who has yet to arrive but informed sources said he may come Friday.

The SNC, which has met several times outside Phnom Penh, is to open its headquarters in the capital next week.

Article Examines Need for Sihanouk's Role

BK1511031791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Nov 91 p A10

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] A veteran diplomat in Phnom Penh has this apt observation: "No one trusts Prince Norodom Sihanouk, but everybody needs him."

With Sihanouk's return to Cambodia yesterday, the 69-year-old prince has become the centre of gravity for the country. It also has revived his political role in the land he once ruled. The country's stability would depend largely on the prince's brinkmanship in relations to the two Phnom Penh leaders—President Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Chea Sim and Hun Sen had already given strong support for the prince's return. Hun Sen had even urged the prince to be the country's president. Both Phnom Penh leaders want to be seen by the public as the persons who brought Sihanouk—the symbol of peace—home. Together with Sihanouk, they can increase their stature in the eyes of the commoners and with the international community.

Having said that, the balance of triangular relations between these three leaders is a prerequisite for a stable Cambodia as the country prepares for the general election. All three players know their peripheries well, they will be extremely careful not to over step others.

When Sihanouk ruled Cambodia back in the 50's and 60's, he was known for his political brinkmanship and manipulations. In the domestic domain, the prince spared no mercy for those who opposed him. Internationally, Sihanouk was also well-known for his high profile diplomatic finesse. His method of handling the communists and non-communists, many critics believed, had laid the groundwork for the victory of the communist movement in the mid-1970's.

For Cambodia in the 1990's, Sihanouk's versatility is still important for two reasons: firstly, to unify all the forces in Cambodia after over a decade of Vietnamese occupation, and secondly to usher the war-torn country into the changing region of Southeast Asia and the world community.

As a quasi monarch, generally speaking, Sihanouk will be above politics, but that does not mean he will be left out completely from the overall scheme of things in Cambodia. He will still wield power as the SNC chairman. To be effective, he must be able to build trust among the Cambodian leaders. In New York in September, after the four factions agreed to the UN peace plan, Sihanouk met with Hun Sen and promised to be "strictly neutral" once he was in Cambodia.

Sihanouk aside, both Chea Sim and Hun Sen realize that they, as the leaders of the Pracheachon Party, would also gain creditability if they cooperated with the prince.

Chea Sim, who retains his influence within the party and at the grass-roots level including the control over the country's security apparatus, will be closely identified with the prince's activities during his stay in Phnom Penh.

According to a Phnom Penh-based diplomat, who met with Chea Sim two weeks ago, Chea Sim has written a letter to Sihanouk pledging cooperation with him for the future of Cambodia.

Of late, Hun Sen's increased popularity has been due mainly to his working relationship with the prince, who learnt to trust the young premier. Their current rapport is important in maintaining peace in Cambodia. In fact, it was agreed that the five top Phnom Penh leaders would accompany Sihanouk wherever he goes. They are Chea Sim, Hun Sen, honorary President Heng Samrin, Interior Minister Sin Song, and Sar Kheng, a top politburo member.

As things stand, it is hard to predict whether the triangular alliance would last until the general election in 1993. Suffice it to say, Sihanouk will do whatever he can to accord even-handed treatment to the two Phnom Penh leaders.

Since Sihanouk is assuming more or less a ceremonial rule, the prince needs to have a cushion for his political activities. It is likely that his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, will serve that function.

Already, Hun Sen and Ranariddh have become acquaintances and learnt to accept each other's styles and roles. Hun Sen's new found rapport with Sihanouk has strengthened the young premier's ties with Ranariddh, according to a source close to the Sihanoukist group.

Apparently, Sihanouk's decision to endorse Ranariddh to lead the Sihanoukist group, which will be transformed into a political party, has created discontent among key personalities. Prince Norodom Chakrapong, also a son of Sihanouk, plans to establish a spin-off party. He was in Phnom Penh a few days ago to mobilize support for this party.

In the months ahead, Sihanouk will play a pivotal role in putting competing political forces inside Cambodia into focus and balance. If the prince has learned his past lessons well, he can succeed and will be remembered as the new saviour of his unfortunate nation.

Total Vietnamese Troop Withdrawal Urged

BK2011021491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Cambodian Nation and People Will Win and Survive—Come Hell or High Water"]

[Text] The Vietnamese have waged a war of aggression against Cambodia for nearly 13 years. The Cambodian nation and people have upheld great national union and fought the Vietnamese aggressors until victory was achieved. The four Cambodian parties and a number of friendly countries concerned both far and near have signed a peace accord to end the Vietnamese war of invasion in Cambodia.

The following are the vital points of the accord:

1. Establishment of a four-party Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk; and
2. The Vietnamese aggressors must withdraw all their aggressor forces from Cambodia under the joint control and supervision of the United Nations and the SNC.

According to the basic meaning of the accord, Cambodia should regain its independence and all the Cambodian parties should compromise and be reconciled without bickering, by joining forces within the SNC chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in order to implement the accord and effectively and correctly end the war, thereby bringing about peace and independence for the Cambodian people. And Cambodians should jointly promote great national union and strive to put into application the accord efficiently and correctly. This is not aimed at defeating any faction nor is it aimed at helping any faction to win, but it is for the victory of the Cambodian nation and people as a whole at the present time and in the future. The victory means that the Cambodian nation, people, and race will survive forever within an independent and peaceful Cambodia where the people are able to enjoy democratic freedom and rights.

Meeting Between Sihanouk, U.S.'s Twining Noted

BK2111034691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] After receiving credentials from U.S. diplomat Mr. Charles Twining, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk called on the United States not to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs. He asked the United States to devote attention to the restoration of Cambodia's economy.

The samdech's above-mentioned statement represents the request of the entire Cambodian nation and people. The samdech clearly realizes that:

1. With any foreign intervention, the implementation of the accord to end the Vietnamese war of invasion would be hindered;

2. With any foreign interference, the Cambodian nation and people would not be able to achieve national reconciliation and compromise and great national union within the framework of the Supreme National Council headed by himself; and

3. With any foreign intervention, peace could never be restored to Cambodia and foreigners would again certainly invade and wage a war in Cambodia as before.

The samdech and U.S. envoy Mr. Charles Twining unanimously agreed to improve living conditions in the countryside where the people are currently in the poorest situation.

The Cambodian people wish to welcome and applaud the move because the 13 years of the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia have caused the rural people in almost all villages and communes throughout the country to live in misery or to die of starvation. There is devastation everywhere due to the war.

Indonesia

Army Said Readying 'Major' Offensive in E. Timor

Dili Airport Reported Closed

LD2111004691 Lisbon RDP Comercial Radio Network in Portuguese 0000 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] We have just heard that Dili Airport in East Timor has been closed since 1200, Indonesian time, on Wednesday. This may be a sign that Indonesia is preparing a major military offensive in East Timor. The reasons reported for the airport closure are unclear and no official statement has been issued.

Resistance Warns of Army Action

LD2111113591 Lisbon RDP Internacional in Portuguese 1008 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Interview with Fretilin (Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor) delegate Ramos Horta by unidentified correspondent on 21 November "in Europe;" recorded]

[Text] Dili Airport is under heavy guard at the moment. This is worrying the Timorese resistance, as the Fretilin delegate in Europe confirmed:

[Ramos Horta] We believe that the closing up of East Timor has started. Passengers heading for East Timor are getting to Bali, but are not being allowed to travel on to Kupang, and passengers arriving directly in Kupang from Australia have not been allowed to continue on to East Timor. This has been happening for the last 24 hours. This means, therefore, that the so-called quote-unquote policy of openness has come to an end. Timor is once again closed, as it was from 1976 to 1987-88.

[Announcer] As for the possibilities of contacting Dili, Ramos Horta said:

[Ramos Horta] Yes, I was able to contact the resistance yesterday. They informed me about preparations for a major Indonesian offensive, with forces, helicopters, and armored cars, deployed in several areas of the country, with a view to crushing the resistance.

Sutrisno Says E. Timor Open for Red Cross Visit

BK2111105691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1013 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) General Try Sutrisno said here Thursday that East Timor was open for a visit by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

So far the committee has never faced any difficulties to carry out its tasks to visit those injured in November 12 riot in Dili, the four-star general said before a number of mass media chief editors.

The riot in the provincial capital of East Timor early last week which claimed 19 lives and injured 91 broke out when the mob wildly and brutally attacked security officers.

The sympathetic and persuasive measures adopted by the officers came to no avail, they finally were forced to take stern measures in self-defense.

After all, the ICRC has carried out its task in the 27th province of Indonesia for some time, Sutrisno said.

On reports that a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee resolution calling on President Bush to set up a U.N.-supervised fact-finding team in East Timor, he said, East Timor issue is Indonesia's domestic affairs. We will categorically reject foreign interference in the issue.

Suharto Leaves for 25-Day Foreign Trip

BK1911071691 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] President Suharto, accompanied by a number of cabinet ministers, today left Jakarta at 1209 West Indonesian time for Honolulu, Hawaii to begin the first leg of a 25-day visit abroad.

During his trip abroad, the president will lead the Indonesian delegation at the upcoming high-level 15-nation South-South conference at Caracas, Venezuela and the high-level Islamic conference at Dakar, Senegal.

The president and delegation are expected to return to Indonesia on 14 December.

Philippines

Officials Awaiting U.S. Reply to Note on Bases

HK2011025791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 20 Nov 91 p 12

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus yesterday professed not to be bothered by the fact that the U.S. was undertaking talks with the Philippines' neighbors on access arrangements for its forces. This, despite the fact that Washington has failed to reply to the Philippine invitation for discussions on the proferred three-year withdrawal period.

"These developments, the fact that the U.S. is now talking to Malaysia and apparently, Indonesia, is something which I called for back in 1986—the regionalization of the political burden of the U.S. presence," Mr. Manglapus said.

DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] American Affairs Office chief Raul Rabe said U.S. officials told the Philippines that delay in replying to the Philippine note verbale asking for the withdrawal talks to commence had been occasioned by "the need for Washington to first clear up some sticking points." He declined to say what these were.

If no official response from the U.S. is forthcoming within "a reasonable period," a ranking government official said, "we will give then a note saying that they have one year to withdraw from Subic."

Mr Manglapus said he had been unable to take up bilateral issues with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ministerial conference in Seoul recently.

UN SEC-GEN ISSUE

On his poor showing in United Nations' straw vote balloting for the UN Secretary-General position, the foreign secretary waxed philosophical: "It was an honor just to be nominated and to get some votes," he said, pointing out that he had "gotten as many as four votes at one time."

"This was not the first time that the Philippines has been in contention for that post...and lost," he observed. "The African effort was strong and concerted."

Aborigines Demand Return of Bases Lands

HK2111020591 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Malacanang hopes that the United States will respond to its diplomatic note before the end of this week. Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that American officials have assured them that Washington is now studying the diplomatic note.

Negotiations for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Subic Naval Base revolve around three major issues. A member of the Philippine panel said that one of the issues involved in the negotiations is the equipment inventory stating what the Americans are supposed to bring with them and what they are supposed to leave behind.

Meanwhile, the Aetas have asked the government to eject the American troops from the military bases before the end of the year. The aborigines demanded that the military base land be returned, for apparently it is part of their ancestral lands. The Aetas are also pressing the government to declare Mt. Pinatubo and nearby areas as ancestral lands in order to avoid the possibility of this land falling into the hands of others. The aborigines also added that they now wished to return to the land where they used to live.

Senator Sees U.S. Interference in 1992 Elections

HK2111053791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada believes that the United States will play an important role in the coming 1992 presidential elections. Tanada said that although he lacks the proof, he still believes that the United States has started its efforts to intervene in the political situation of the country in order to ensure the victory of the candidate who favors retention of U.S. bases in the Philippines.

The senator pointed out incidents such as the return of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, the Terrell revelation, negotiations with Honasan, and the division of political parties as some indicators of this fact.

Manglapus Views Middle East Peace Conference

HK2111060291 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Nov 91 p 22

[Romy V. Mapile]

[Text] The Philippine government has maintained its support for the Palestine cause in the recently concluded Middle East talks held in Madrid, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus.

"The Philippines stands four-square behind the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people and the rights of all states in the region to secure borders, national sovereignty and political independence," Manglapus said.

He said the Middle East talks, with initiatives from U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, tried to find common ground settlement of a long-standing dispute that has spawned three great wars and destructive confrontations.

"In a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings, Arab, Israeli and Palestinian leaders negotiated for the first time since the Palestinian partition in 1948," Manglapus said.

"As we congratulate those who labored long and hard to bring about this conference, we hope that the meetings will lead to the end of anguish of a troubled land and that in accordance with pertinent United Nations resolutions, lands that are now under occupation will be given up in favor of lasting and just peace in the region," he said.

In a related development, the Embassy of Israel in Manila stated that, "its government is committed to continue with the process, to hold the continuation of bilateral talks, to bring down the walls of hatred and create a natural good athmosphere for discussion on the issue."

The statement continued: "This breakthrough in Madrid is just the beginning of a long and difficult process, Israel truly hopes that the end of the procese will bring true peace with its neighbors. This will open a door for a new era of cooperation and prosperity to all the people in the region."

Rebel Air Force General Zumel Said Missing

HK2111132691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Former Air Force Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel is reportedly missing after the emissaries of General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, failed to locate him for a scheduled last meeting before the 23 November deadline. Here is Rodney Jaleco of DZRH Unit 1 with the details:

[Begin recording] Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel is said to be missing after emissaries failed to meet him for the last meeting before the 23 November deadline. Abadia says he does not know where Zumel is now. Abadia was hoping he could convince Zumel to return to military control so his peace initiative may have a good result. According to reports, Zumel was reportedly ready to surrender after the government conceded to his basic demands, but the negotiations bogged down at the last minute. Zumel is believed to be suffering from an illness which needs constant hospitalization and cannot leave Metro Manila. Abadia admitted that there are last- ditch efforts to convince the 11 rebel soldiers to return to military control before Saturday [23 November]. However, when asked about these, Abadia said these are top secret matters and that he is not prepared to divulge these at this stage. [end recording]

Abadia Dismisses Honasan's New Coup Threat

HK2011104991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0915 GMT 20 Nov 91

[By Rodney Jaleco, DZRH Unit 1]

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said he met this morning with rebel emissary Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Kapunan to arrange a possible meeting with Honasan before the deadline expires 23 November. Abadia stressed they will not have any difficulty pursuing the 11 rebel soldiers who have not yet returned to military control. Abadia added they are prepared to capture Honasan within the last six months of the Aquino administration. Abadia said the six months he gave to search for a peaceful solution to the problems on the ultrarightist rebellion are more than enough. Abadia belittled Honasan's threat to launch another coup. According to Abadia, he personally told Honasan and

Commodore Domingo Calajate that the government will be giving a deadline. Abadia added that he relayed to Honasan's emissaries the 23 November deadline before he left for Hawaii last week.

'Manhunt' for Rebel Soldiers To Start 24 Nov

HK2111094891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, said the initiative for the peace talks has attained partial success. A widespread manhunt for the 11 rebel soldiers including renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan will start after the 23 November deadline expires. Here is Rodney Jaleco with the details:

[Begin recording] AFP Chief General Lisandro Abadia said today that the peace initiative has attained a partial success after 18 rebel leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-SFP-YOU] returned to military control. Abadia said that even though he lost hope that former Lieutenant Colonel Honasan would surrender, the government has gained a moral ascendancy against the rightist rebels. Abadia reiterated that the government will not extend the 23 November deadline to finish the peace initiative. Abadia added that the offensive will start against the remaining 11 RAM-SFP-YOU leaders on the first hour of 24 November. Abadia appealed to Honasan and other rebel leaders to end this foolishness so the country can rise up and attain unity in the armed forces. Abadia warned Honasan that he cannot do anything but look for him and arrest him because he is a symbol of the faction in the military that allows itself to be used in politics. Abadia stressed that the rebel soldiers no longer have the capability to launch another coup attempt. Abadia added that Honasan has promised that the rebels will not use any terrorist activitities including bombing, even after the peace initiative has ended. [end recording]

Rebel Soldiers' Spokesman Warns of 'Revolution'

HK2011130791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0957 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina, spokesman for the detained leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union, confirmed that Colonel Gringo Honasan will not surrender even if the government gives him an ultimatum. In an interview with this reporter inside his cell in Camp Aguinaldo, General Abenina said the word surrender is not in their vocabulary and that they only want to have a good discussion regarding the eight points they presented to the government. Abenina explained that their group wants to have genuine reforms in the government and the eradication of graft and corruption but that the government has not responded to these demands. He also said that they will seek electoral reforms because, if the election laws are not changed and cheating prevails in the 1992 election, they may launch a revolution, not a coup d'etat, which could possibly be initiated by the citizenry. According to Abenina, the Armed Forces of the Philippines may participate and even Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadia may join the next uprising if cheating is rampant in the coming elections.

[Begin Abenina recording] If next year's elections turn out to be unconscionable in that they do not represent the people's wishes, the uprising will not even be initiated by the RAM but the people themselves. It will be stronger than the 1986 revolution. In 1986, there was not even a million people who participated in the revolution but this one will have over 60 million people. No force can stop the people from rising up. General Abadia himself said that if next year's election result is unreasonable, the armed forces may even take over and run the government. General Abadia has a point because our Constitution states that the armed forces is responsible for the protection of the citizenry. [end recording]

Rebel Returnees Said Cooperating With Military

HK1911111991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The rebel soldiers who have returned to the government like Red Kapunan are now cooperating with the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP]. This was learned today from AFP spokesman Colonel Jaime de los Santos. Here is the full report by Josette Olivera:

[Begin recording] De los Santos said the rebel soldiers have been showing good conduct since they returned to government control. Before being returned to military custody, the rightist members signed a memorandum of undertaking which outlined limitations to their freedom. However, they are no longer considered military fugitives. It was learned that the rebel soldiers have not committed any violations from the time they returned to military control. Instead, they even served as emissaries to convince their comrades like Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan to return to the government. [end recording]

Abadia Denies Holding Talks With Communists

HK1911112091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said there are no military officials that are currently talking to any leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA-NDF]. Here is Rodney Jaleco, DZRH Unit 1 with the details.

[Begin Jaleco recording] Armed Forces chief General Lisandro Abadia said there are no military officials who are currently talking with the leaders of the CPP-NPA-NDF. Abadia said the dialogue with rebel leaders is limited to NPA commanders in Laguna and Quezon where an ongoing cease-fire is being observed under the government peace initiative for the CPP-NPA-NDF. According to Abadia, the military does not have any objection to recognizing the CPP-NPA if they will pledge to abandon the use of force in achieving their political objectives and if they will follow the Philippine Constitution. Some AFP officials believed that the NPA has launched a new offensive in order to stop the regional peace initiatives after a dispute between local NPA commanders and their national leader occurred. Abadia said the NPA will definitely try to meddle in the coming national elections and will also support some progressive candidates. Abadia said the military is prepared for any action that will be made by the communists. He also said the coming election will be orderly and peaceful. [end recording]

Government Stance on Muslim Secessionism Viewed

HK1911034291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "That MNLF Problem"]

[Text] Evidently, the President's well-known aversion for unsolicited advice does not afflict our diplomats. For how else can we explain their timid response to the "suggestion" made by a four- man delegation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) that new peace talks between Muslim secessionists and the government be held before the end of the year in Jeddah, Saudi Arbia.

Any self-respecting, confident and sovereign nation would have politely told the visiting dignitaries there is no need for such talks or time to prepare for them. But instead, a DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] bureaucrat tentatively agreed to take part in the meeting and then limply explained that the Philippine government had done all it could under the 1987 Constitution to resolve the decades-old conflict.

Any bureaucrat worth his per diem would know that no conference can be put together with any chance of success in the time left before the end of 1991, especially now that national attention is focused on next year's elections.

So why is this government again humoring the OIC? The answer probably lies somewhere between its perennially distracted frame of mind, due among others to the heat of impending political battle, and the dilettante character of its approach to the Mindanao conflict. One thing alone is clear: Government's spineless response to this latest instance of meddling will bring another spiral of recriminations and saber-rattling from self-appointed defenders of Bangsa Moro interests.

It is important to take stock of the basic realities that are involved in the so-called Mindanao problem today. The first is that there is no way the 1976 Tripoli agreement can be implemented to the letter, particularly with regard to the provinces that are to be brought into an autonomous "Muslim" region. A plebiscite held in 1989 in nine provinces ended with only four predominantly Muslim provinces opting for inclusion in the autonomous region. Given a democratic choice, therefore, only a few provinces listed under the Tripoli agreement are willing to be part of the autonomous region.

The second reality is that not enough has been done to provide Muslims and Muslim areas (the same with highlanders) the kind of advantages that are considered a matter of course in Christian areas. One merely has to travel from Cotabato City to General Santos to see the glaring difference between lands tilled by Muslim and those by Christian farm families.

The disparity is not solely a matter of budget allocation but also of discrimination that considers Muslims and highlanders less deserving of quality services and opportunities. Although more people are conscious now of this unjust order, not enough has been done to rectify it as speedily as the more thoughtful Muslim leaders would want it.

Unless a more consistent and pervasive effort than is presently being undertaken is made, secessionism will continue to attract some following in Mindanao.

Anti-Insurgency Campaign Displaces 2000 in Davao

HK2111074891 Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 13 Nov 91 pp 1, 12

[By Bert Renejane]

[Text] Paquibato District, Davao City—At least three hundred families composed of some 2,000 individuals have evacuated their homes at the hinterlands of this district, when combined forces of the Phil. Army and the Phil. Marines launched furious military operations since Monday marked by sporadic bombings and continuous armed assaults against communist insurgents.

The Davao City regional office of the Dept. of Social Welfare and Devt. (DSWD) reported yesterday that about P [Philippine pesos] 14,000.00 had already been spent to feed evacuees presently staying at makeshifts a few kilometers away from the virtual warzone covering barangays Paradise Embac and Fatima.

Social welfare workers Malou Bermudo said that the military men took from them the distribution of foodstuffs for the evacuees in order to make sure that foods would not reach the guerrillas.

Bermudo expressed her worry that several children at evacuation centers are not being properly fed that could cause diseases leading to deaths.

Military sources disclosed that operations were launched at Paradise Embac and Fatima, two remote barangays in this district, following reports that the communist movement is already in full control of the area. A rebel training camp was said to be already in place in the area for several months now.

Reports also indicated that communists have already recruited hundreds of residents to the armed movement including personnel of the Civilian Volunteers Organization, a civilian group against insurgents formed by the government.

Last Monday morning, elements of the Army's 75th Infantry Battalion under the command of Maj. Franklin Estrada, backed up by a contingent of Phil. Marines, reportedly fired mortar bombs at various points of the barangays to signal the operations.

Reports on injuries and fatalities could not be secured at the area had been cordoned by the government troopers while no report was available from the military until yesterday.

By Monday afternoon, when the attack against the insurgents was at its peak, some residents started to leave their respective houses. Young and old women carrying infants—crying, screaming and running—were reportedly a common sight during the evening.

Some residents at the evacuation centers revealed that government troopers were assaulting practically all males suspiciously escaping from the area. The military, the residents claimed, had insisted that even 10-year old boys have already joined the rebel movement.

It was also said that isolated bombings and assaults were still unleashed by the government troopers from Tuesday until yesterday. The warzone is reportedly still cordoned until prestime.

Some evacuees likewise expressed their worries yesterday on possible looting of their properties left at their houses.

Ramos, Fernan Agree To Form 1992 Ticket

HK2011041491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 6

[By Juliet M. Labog]

[Text] Former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos and Supreme Court Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan have forged an agreement to team up in a Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of the Filipino Democrats (LDP)] ticket for the 1992 polls, a congressman said yesterday.

Rep. Antonio Aquino (LDP, Quezon City) said Ramos and Fernan expressed openness for either a Fernan-Ramos or a Ramos-Fernan tandem. The two met for over an hour at an undisclosed venue Monday night.

Aquino, one of the proponents of a Fernan draft, said the two did not decide who will run for president or vice president. They just agreed to launch a combined ticket, he said.

Aquino said supporters of Fernan met again with members of the Ramos camp to press for a Fernan-Ramos ticket.

After the Monday meeting, Fernan said he was pursuing his plan to quit the high court and join the LDP if he is assured of a chance to run, Aquino revealed.

"He is willing to take a reasonable risk, to resign from the Supreme Court provided he be given the chance to participate and run under the party," Aquino said.

Ramos and Speaker Ramon V. Mitra are contending for the LDP's presidential nomination at the party convention on Nov. 30. The LDP group in Quezon City is pushing for Fernan's candidacy.

The group includes Aquino, Quezon City Mayor Brigido Simon Jr., Vice Mayor Vicente Sotto III, and Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan. LDP Secretary General Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco is reportedly behind the move.

An INQUIRER source in the Ramos camp said the President had asked Fernan to talk with Ramos about the possibility of their team up.

Aquino said Ramos and Fernan will meet again to finalize the ticket, but he did not say when.

Aquino said Representatives Renato Yap and Jose Yap, Pagdanganan and Pampanga Gov. Bren Guiao will meet with Ramos' political leaders Rep. Jose de Venecia and Rep. Isidro Real Jr.

Meanwhile, a source close to Simon said that if Fernan does not get the draft to be the presidential candidate, Cojuangco and Simon will realign their forces with Ramos.

The source said Simon's League of City Mayors and the powerful bloc of Cojuangco will fully support a Ramos-Fernan tandem.

The source said Cojuangco and Simon were "consolidating" their forces in Mindanao for the emerging Fernan-Ramos or Ramos-Fernan ticket.

Simon left for Cotabato yesterday with Ramos' key political leaders and Cojuangco's wife Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco. They are expected to also go to Zamboanga, Negros and Cebu.

In other development:

—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has ruled out an alliance with businessman Eduardo Cojuangco to isolate Vice President Salvador H. Laurel. He said he would still push for the reunification of the three rival factions of the Nacionalista Party [NP].

—As this developed, the NP-Laurel wing asked the Commission on Elections to declare as null and void the two separate national directorate meetings called by Enrile and Cojuangco last week. They aslo asked the poll body to stop the two other factions from using the NP emblem, seal, logo and slogan and publicly claiming they are duly elected officials of the party.

—In a speech before the Manila Jaycees yesterday, Enrile vowed to continue supporting the NP's bid to win in the national elections despite his withdrawal from contention for the party's presidential nomination.

—Pasig Mayor Mario Raymundo (LDP) yesterday expressed his belief that Ramos will be the next president of the country.

He said that all 28 LDP delegates from Pasig will support Ramos' bid for the party's presidential nomination at the Nov. 30 convention.

Thailand

Prime Minister Seeks Limit to Number of Senators

BK2111020191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p A3

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said yesterday the number of senators should not exceed half the total number of MPs.

Continuing his cautious criticism of the controversial draft constitution, Anan said it was not democratically sensible to give equal power to both non-elected senators and elected MPs.

After a last-minute amendment, the draft fixed the maximum number of senators at 270. It previously stipulated that the Senate comprise up to 360 members, the same as the House of Representatives.

"The number of senators should not be more than half the number of MPs, or 180 at most," Anan said. "That non-elected people should neither outnumber nor have more power than those who are elected is a basic principle of political science."

During the past few days the military-appointed caretaker prime minister has sided with growing public opposition to the armed forces' political role. On Saturday he criticized several points in the constitution draft, which is widely believed to have been designed to guarantee military domination of politics.

The military-established interim National Legislative Assembly on Monday endorsed a much-criticized clause of the draft that makes the Senate speaker serve concurrently as Parliament president.

Asked to comment on the assembly's decison Anan said: "I'm blind." He did not elaborate.

Anan had been publicly criticized for not taking a tougher stand against the controversial charter draft. Responding to the criticism, he said that as a caretaker prime minister he must "play by the rules of the game."

The caretaker government has also come under fire after restrictions were imposed on TV political reports.

Permanent Secretary of the PM's Office, Aphilat Osathanon, had ordered TV Channels 3 and 9 to avoid presenting reports critical of the government and the military. Aphilat said on Monday that he made the move in his capacity as chairman of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand (MCOT)'s board of directors.

Aphilat said many National Peacekeeping Council and government officials had asked him why the two MCOT-run television stations had broadcast reports that offended the military and government.

Anan tried to distance himself from the issue, saying while he himself was not sensitive to either criticism or praise "some people may be."

He yesterday reiterated his support for freedom of expression.

"I don't know anything about the TV ban. You should ask the administrators of the TV stations," he told reporters.

"I've never done anything that could limit people's basic rights. I have never done and will never do so in my life," he added.

The prime minister called on the public to "trust" his caretaker administration.

Bangkok Governor Chamlong Simuang, during the mass rally against the draft charter at Sanam Luang on Monday, strongly defied the armed forces, prompting speculation that he might be ousted from his official position.

Asked if the Cabinet would remove Chamlong, leader of the Phalang Tham Party, Anan said: "Please trust and be fair to this government".

Assembly Agrees To Ban on Corrupt Politicians

BK2111015991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p A1, A2

[Text] In a highly controversial move, the National Legislative Assembly yesterday agreed to impose a lifelong electoral ban on corrupt politicians, but conspicuously left loopholes that would allow the 13 political leaders being investigated for alleged corruption to contest future polls.

On the second day of deliberation of the revised draft constitution, the assembly revived for debate a much-disputed clause prescribing the electoral ban on politicians "whose assets are seized by the state after being ruled ill-gotten by the court or under legitimate legal procedures."

The clause had been doubtfully dropped from the draft charter after the Chat Thai Party, whose seven members are among the 13 politicians under investigation, elected a pro-military man, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong, as its new leader.

The dropping of the clause was widely regarded a part of a deal between the military and Chat Thai, which was the core of the previous coalition toppled in the February coup but has attempted to mend its ties with the armed forces.

Several assembly members yesterday strongly questioned why the ad hoc committee that reviewed the draft dropped the crucial clause, while deciding to maintain the ban on government officials who have been fired from their posts because of corruption.

The ad hoc panel had defended its decision, saying voters should decide by themselves whether to re-elect politicians with bad backgrounds.

"Why do those civil sevants deserve the punishment while those (convicted by the court of) plundering our country don't?" said assembly member Sasima Siwikon yesterday.

"I don't understand why corrupt politicians should be given another chance to come back and do all the bad things that they have done," she added.

Charas Suwanwela, Chulalongkon University rector, noted that the military cited "unprecedented corruption" when it ousted the previous government in the coup.

"After the coup, we hoped to have a better constitution," he said. "But now I'm not so sure. And this particular issue will be a decisive factor."

The ad hoc committee's chairman, Osot Kosin, replied that putting such a clause in the constitution would affect Thailand's international image.

"We the committee are afraid that other countries would wonder why we have to put it in the charter," Osot said emotionally. "That's all I will say and I won't answer more questions."

Thamnun Latphli, responding swiftly to Osot's statement, said the image-conscious argument was just a pretext.

"Please tell us the truth," he asked Osot.

Labour leader Ekkachai Ekhankamon joined the criticism, saying it was not sensible to ban civil servants, fired by their agencies for corruption, from elections while politicians convicted by the courts of the same offence could still play politics.

"The civil servants are not even convicted by the court," he said.

Asa Meksawan, vice president of the assembly, ordered an unusual 10-minute break in the midst of the debate. During the interval, he was seen seriously discussing the issue with several people including Interior Minister and Secretary General of the National Peacekeeping Council Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan.

Assembly President Ukkrit Mongkhon retook the chairman's seat when the session resumed and announced the ad hoc committee had agreed to make some concessions.

Osot, obviously trying to maintain composure, told the assembly the ad hoc panel had agreed to revive the controversial clause but delete the part that stated "or under legitimate legal procedures."

The deleted part had been intended to legitimize the power of the military-appointed Assets Examination Committee which is authorized to confiscate the assets of the 13 politicians.

Under a recent legal amendment, any politician whose assets are ordered seized by the Assets Examination Committee can appeal against the ruling in court.

After Osot's announcement, Thamnun immediately noted that the 13 politicians could still run in elections even if they were ruled corrupt by the assets committee.

"They may let the assets committee seize their assets without appealing in court. And since their cases end there, not in court, they are still eligible for elections," Thamnun said.

As his remark threatened to trigger a new round of heated debate, Ukkrit cut short the process, endorsing the dubiously revised clause without calling a voting.

Assembly To Retain Existing Electoral System

BK2111015591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p A3

[Excerpt] The National Assembly yesterday overwhelmingly voted to retain the existing electoral system under which voters in each constituency review committee.

Only five assemblymen voted in favour of a proposed party-slate system with three MPs for each constituency. This three MPs for each constituency. This proposal was put forward yesterday as a compromise.

The decision is likely to dash the hope of the pro-military Samakkhi Tham Party to take advantage of the party-slate system to gain a sizeable number of seats in the House of Representatives in the general election.

Earlier, the review committee dumped the old electoral system as proposed by the constitution-drafting committee in favour of the party-slate system with between four and seven MPs for each constituency. But it changed back to the the old system last week in the face of public pressure.

After about one hour of debate on the issue, the assembly voted to uphold the review committee's proposed electoral system under Article 116 of the draft constitution.

During the debate, the five assemblymen who proposed the last-minute change to the party-slate system, with three MPs for each constituency, tried unsuccessfully to convinced the assembly that their proposal would help strengthen political parties and stabilize the political system.

Lt Gen Pricha Rotchanasen, an assemblyman representing the army, kicked off the debate, saying the party-slate system would help discourage vote buying and create fewer but stronger political parties.

"Vote-buying would become redundant because voters would base their judgement on the credibility of political parties rather than individual candidates," he said.

Assemblyman Phinit Chantharasurin, a core member of the Samakkhi Tham Party, said the party-slate system would create more powerful political parties which would be able to form a stable government and implement policies under their parties' platforms.

"The old electoral system, under which voters pick individual candidates, has invariably resulted in too many small parties which were too weak to push for the implementation of their parties' policies," Phinit said.

Under the original party-slate proposal, voters' would be restricted to choosing a team of candidates belonging to only one particular party in a constituency with between four and seven MPs.

Assemblyman Phaibun Changrian said although he agreed with the argument that the party-slate system would strengthen political parties, he said disadvantages of the system outweighed its advantages.

"Voters would not be able to vote for individuals of their linking and political parties would be compelled to use more money to win elections under the party-slate system because of higher stake involved," Phaibun said. [passage omitted]

Decision Undermines Samakkhi Tham Party

BK2111015191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p A1, A2

[Text] The military-appointed National Assembly dealt a political blow to the Samakkhi Tham Party yesterday when it endorsed the electoral system that allows a voter to elect three candidates from different parties.

The 87 former northeastern MPs who form the largest group in the pro-air force party have had their political futures turned around by the sudden revival of the old system of voting. At least half are expected to return to their old parties as they had agreed to join Samakkhi Tham on condition that the party-slate system would be adopted.

"I am sure that they will be split because some joined us on the condition that the party-slate system would be adopted. I am checking to see who is staying and who will leave," said Samakkhi Tham deputy leader Phinit Chantharasurin, former MP for Lampang, who has been a key figure in lobbying for defections to the new party.

A group of about 10 former southern Muslim MPs, led by Den Tomina, who had been wavering between Samakkhi Tham and former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's New Aspiration Party (NAP), yesterday decided to stay with NAP.

Wirawon Sitthitham, also a Samakkhi Tham Party deputy leader and a former deputy secretary of the Chat Thai Party, said the latest political twist caught many northeastern members off-guard.

"We are frightened and bewildered because we never expected such a drastic change," said Wirawon, a former Nakhon Phanom MP.

Wirawon, who is responsible for coordinating the party's northeastern candidates, said the northeasterners would meet in the next few days to grill party secretary general Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thiti Nakonthap and decide whether to stay.

"I, myself, am not sure whether I will stay on. But we agreed, among the six of us who have formed a team to run in Nakhon Phanom, that we would stay in the same boat, whether we stay or go," he said.

Wirawon said politicians in the northeastern faction had hidden their frustration with the recent election of the party's executive committee, to which very few northeasterners won seats.

Wirawon said many former Chat Thai MPs would probably return to Chat Thai because party secretary general Banhan Silapa-acha had approached them, asking them to return.

He said the latest political twist resulted from "mutual suspicions" among leaders of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC).

"He (Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun) does not trust Samakkhi Tham," which is said to be Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rojananin's political broker.

With the withdrawal of Suchinda and Kaset in the race, incumbent Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun seemed set to continue as prime minister after the polls, Wirawon predicted.

Chawalit, he predicted, would become the opposition "for reasons which are already known".

"They do not belong to the same military grouping," he added.

Seksan Saenphumi, a former Surin MP, also told THE NATION he expected at least half of the northeastern former MPs to desert Samakkhi Tham and return to their old parties.

But Seksan, who is leading the party's team of candidates for Surin, said he could not afford to return to the Ratsadon Party because of his previous personal conflict with former leader Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan.

Several other northeastern candidates also told THE NATION they would return to their old parties. They included Punsawat Hotrawaisaya, a former Chat Thai MP from Ubon Ratchathani, Wichai Iiamwong, who is a former Democrat MP for Udon Thani, and former Chat Thai MP Sawat Supsaiprom.

They said they would stay with Samakkhi Tham only on the condition that the party-slate system would be adopted.

The Samakkhi Tham Party had hoped to make sweeping gains in the Northeast and the North in the upcoming election, betting on the party-slate system in which strong team leaders were expected to drag their weaker teammates into the House.

Suchinda Dismisses Speculation on Dumping Draft

BK2011023391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday dismissed speculation an attempt might be made to derail the draft Constitution before it passes its third reading.

"How can any attempt be made to topple the draft? It will only further delay the election," Gen Suchinda said.

The supreme commander, who is also vice-chairman of the National Peace-keeping Council, [NPKC] denied members of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] have been heavily lobbied to approve the draft as it is.

He defended the draft against criticism that it is undemocratic.

"How can we know that the draft is undemocratic when it has not yet been approved by the NLA."

He said he had already made it clear on Monday that the NPKC has no involvement whatsoever with the drafting process of the Constitution.

Gen Suchinda attended the Assembly meeting yesterday morning but was unable to attend in the afternoon because he had to lay a foundation stone for the "Khraprayun Pavilion" and to preside over a religious ceremony at a temple in Muang District, Nong Khai.

He later led a group of senior military officers including Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunpakdi, in a football match against a team of local businessmen.

Several senior Samakkhi Tham Party members, including secretary-general Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thitti Nakhonthap, joined local residents in welcoming the general to the province.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, asked to say whether it is possible for the draft to be derailed before the third reading, so the Government and the NPKC might be able to choose a previous constitution for promulgation, said: "I don't answer hypothetical questions."

Bangkok Governor Opposes Draft Constitution

BK1911022791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Phalang Tham Party [PTP] leader Chamlong Simuang, returning from a visit to the Soviet Union yesterday, declared an all-out war on the controversial draft Constitution, particularly against the items cited in the provisonal clause.

Maj-Gen Chamlong said he will "fight with full force" by joining the people to oppose the draft charter.

"No matter what may happen to me, my party or my people, I'll fight till the end. We don't want ot see bad and violent things happen in our country later, that's why we have to fight now," the PTP leader said.

The Bangkok governor said he will join a public rally organised by political parties at Sanam Luang this evening to denounce the Constitution. The PTP, he said, has already collected some 26,000 signatures of people who do not agree with the provisions in the charter for submitting to the Natinal Legislative Assembly on Friday.

The draft Constitution should not have been made even worse than it already is, he said.

One point in the provisional clause—which states that the number of senators will be equal to the number of popularly elected MPs—drew scathing remarks from the popular PTP leader.

The governor said this will give senators too much power. In that case, why shouldn't all of them be elected just as MPs? he asked.

Maj-Gen Chamlong contended that the number of senators should not be that many but one-third or one-half or, at worst, three-fourths of the number of MPs.

He also rasied concern about the prospect of civil servants concurrently holding political posts, as envisaged in the draft charter.

Port Offers Importers Space for Bonded Warehouse

BK1911043591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Nov 91 p 28

[Text] The Port Authority of Thailand [PAT] has offered space for cigarette importers to set up their own bonded warehouses at Laem Chabang Commercial Port.

An informed source in the Commerce Ministry said yesterday that the PAT's offer was aimed at resolving a cigarette trade dispute with the United States.

Although Thailand has agreed to open the market for cigarette imports last year, some issues need further consultation, especially permission to set up public warehouses, he said.

The matter was raised by US Trade Representative Carla Hills last week in Seoul during informal talks on resolving Thai-US trade issues.

The source said that according to Ambassador Hills, importers of American cigarettes complain that they face obstacles because the Government has not provided suitable bonded warehouses through the PAT.

Only one public bonded warehouse, of 100 square metres, is now available at Bangkok Port for cigarette storage. It is open to all importers on a first-come, first-served basis which is unsuitable.

The source said the Government had rejected the importers' request for warehouses space because it would be against a Customs regulation which does not allow importers to set up their own bonded warehouses outside the PAT area.

However, to resolve the problem the PAT decided to provide an area at the deep-sea port on a rental basis for importers to establish their own warehouses.

The Customs Department is prepared to ease its regulation when importers submit details of their proposals, according to the source.

He said the Finance Ministry disagreed with a US request for excise stamps to be printed on packets at the point of production and the amount paid when the cigarettes entered Thailand. The ministry believed this would create difficulty in preventing smuggled cigarettes.

The Thai Government still insisted on maintaining its tariff rates because they conformed with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and applied across the board.

"The Government decided to apply tariffs and excise tax on cigarettes at high rates because Thailand is aware of the dangers of smoking," he said.

Proper Investigation of E. Timor Shootings Urged

BK1811042191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Action Needed To Safeguard Timor"]

[Text] Indonesia has taken a proper first step by abandoning early attempts to cover up a massacre of civilians by its troops in East Timor last week. Early attempts to try to gloss over the shooting of members of a crowd in Dili were greeted with outrage around the world. Compounding this anger were indications that government and army leaders in Jakarta were going to try to sweep the incident under the carpet. Luckily for Indonesia, more astute members of the administration were able to gauge the damage of an attempted whitewash. Foreign Ministr Ali Alatas and Army commander Gen Try Sutrisno both have promised a full investigation of the shootings. They must be held to their word.

The events leading up to the killing of between 19 and 180 persons by the Indonesian army in Dili are well known. Since forcibly annexing East Timor in 1976 after Portugal granted independence to the area, Jakarta often has been accused of killings and human rights abuses. There is smore than a little evidence that the army has been largely unconcerned with such principles as human rights in its successful decimation of Fretelin, the East Timorese Marxist opposiion group. The killings at Dili last Tuesday, however, obviously go far beyond even the broadest possible definition of armed combat.

There was definitely tension in the Dili air last Tuesday,. A large crowd gathered to attend the funeral of a Timorese killed in a gang fight between groups supporting, and opposed to, Indonesian rule of the area. Investigators will have to sort out eyewitness reports from this point. Some of those who were there claim that someone in the crowd shot a pistol, and another spoke of someone in the crowd tossing an unarmed hand grenade at troops watching the marchers.

Even if either of these events occurred, there seems to reports over the past few days to have been no event which could justify what can only be termed a massacre. Foreign newsmen and East Timor Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao agree that the troops did not panic. Instead, they coolly fired into the crowd, killing and wounding scores of people. Two American newsmen were beaten by troops during the shooting. This is certainly an indication the attack was planned. A New Zealand aid worker was killed, and an Australian colleague was wounded, a further sign that the shooting was indiscriminate.

Mr Alatas, who is a low-key contender for the position of UN Secretary-General, at first was less than forthcoming on the shootings. "The security forces had to take action," he said, although no such evidence appeared to exist. His quick turn-around to back an intensive investigation came only after Jakarta ordered Gen Sutrisno to get to the bottom of the killings. Governor Viegas and

East Timor Roman Catholic Bishop Ximenes Carlos Belo were far faster off the mark in condemning the army and demanding an open inquiry. The current UN secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar deplored the deaths, and joined countries like the United States, Japan, Britain and Australia in the call for a full investigation.

Indonesia's own interest will be served by abandoning its 15-year attempt to cover up events in East Timor. The army has stood accused of unwarranted violence and atrocities in the annexed province from the first day it entered Dili. Any thoughtful probe of last week's extraordinary use of armed force against civilians must also consider the hundreds of separate claims of downright abuse of many Timorese. Jakarta is probably unwilling under any circumstances to yield to calls for abandoning its colonial takeover of East Timor. A public investigation of mistreatment of Timorese will nevertheless help improve the atrocious image the army has earned in the annexed province.

It is essential that the investigation into last Tuesday's killings at Dili be carried through to the end because only by doing so will punishment be decreed for anyone found culpable in the deaths—especially senior army commanders. Maj Gen Sintong Panjaitan, the regional commander, has defended his troops' actions and criticised what he called "exaggeration of the death toll by foreigners." This is not an impressive statement, nor is it good enough to satisfy international demands for action against those who killed unnecessarily.

Any cover-up of the Dili cemetery killings would only further blacken the international reputation of the Indonesian military in its handling of East Timor since the takeover. It would almost certainly doom the chances of Mr Alatas' selection as UN Secretary-General next year. Indonesia must come clean on the tragedy. The result of a whitewash could well be the blackballing of Indonesia in many international forums.

Vietnam

Text of Do Muoi 22 Oct Ho Chi Minh City Speech

BK1411132191 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Oct 91, pp 1, 3

[Speech by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at opening meeting of the second-round Ho Chi Minh City party organization congress on 22 October]

[Text] Dear Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the party Central Committee; dear comrade veteran revolutionaries; dear comrade delegates: On behalf of the party Central Committee, I cordially welcome our comrade delegates to the second-round congress of the Ho Chi Minh City party organization, fifth term, and would like to convey through them, my cordial regards to all members of the city party organization, party members, and compatriot city residents.

The second-round congress of delegates of the Ho Chi Minh City party organization, fifth term, is of great importance for the city's development in the years ahead. Party organizations and people in the southern provinces as well in the entire nation follow with avid interest the city party organization congress.

Being a major center in the southern part of the fatherland, the city has an important role and a heavy responsibility to fulfill in the process of joining hands with the entire country in implementing the seventh party congress resolution, the platform for national construction in the period of transition to socialism, and the strategy of economic stabilization and development until the year 2000.

Over the past five years, in implementing the renovation line traced by the party since its sixth national congress, the Ho Chi Minh City party organization and people have reached very important achievements: safeguarded political stability, taken the lead in the renovation undertaking, broadened the process of democratization, improved the socioeconomic situation a step further, firmly maintained production, and made progress in many respects. The volume of import-export products has increased. Progress has been made in many aspects of life. The living standards of people of all strata have been improved. The party's renovation line has been quickly applied to life, thus reflecting the city's sensitivity to the multisectorial commodity economic development policy.

New progress has been made by many establishments regarding workstyle. Contacts and screening have provided the party and state with many concrete experiences in the leadership and management of socioeconomic affairs as well as in the development of the multisectorial commodity economy in accordance with the market-oriented mechanism.

Our party highly appreciates all those positive factors because they are proof of efforts to renovate their thinking and workstyle as well as to uphold their bravery, revolutionary heroism, and creativity.

Over the past five years, the city has made progress in implementing democratization in all aspects of life. The activities of the people's council and Fatherland Front committee have yielded more concrete results. Importance has been attached to a pilot program initiated by the city to renovate the management mechanism at the city ward level. Studies have been made to improve the quality of administrative work. Initial results have been achieved in drawing a line between state management and control over production and business operations. Major campaigns initiated by the city against corruption, smuggling, lack of thrift, and other practices likely to cause inconveniences to the people have brought about limited results. However, these actions meet the people's aspirations and are in conformity with party and state policies.

Importance has been attached to ideological work and this is an indication of the sound political background of city party organizations, first of all, of party committee echelons and key cadres in charge of city management.

The city has made every effort to meet the people's needs for access to information, press, cultural, and artistic activities. It has also made much progress in implementing a social welfare program designed to create employment for the people and to provide them with vocational training, learning activities, and medical care and treatment. Efforts have also been made to assist needy compatriots and to show concern for people who have rendered meritorious services to the revolution and the fatherland. Thousands of houses have been built for this purpose. A widespread movement for charity work has been initiated among the masses.

Putting their confidence in the party's renovative line, compatriots in the city have made more positive efforts to promote production and business operations. The combination of economic policies and social policies is an indication of our concern for the motto of everything for the well-being of the people—as well as being proof of the superiority of socialism.

The city party organizations and administrative bodies have developed the aggregate strength of the people, firmly safeguarding political stability despite many complicated developments in the city, discovering and foiling many of the enemy's dark schemes and acts of sabotage, consolidating national defense and security, and cracking down on criminals.

On this occasion I would like to recall those days when you comrades and compatriots in the city enthusiastically discussed and contributed your views on the draft documents of the seventh party congress, and through this process you reasserted your choice of socialism, the path chosen by Uncle Ho. The party organization and people of the city displayed their patriotism, their democratic spirit, their new ability to think, and their scientific perceptions about the country's vital issues in view of the new epochal situation.

What is of more profound significance is that the above achievements were attained thanks to the sensibility of the party organization and the people of the city amid a very complex international situation which has had an overal negative impact on the domestic situation at a time when hostile forces are striving to encircle and isolate Vietnam and accelerate their scheme to eliminate socialism in our country.

With its party organization knowing how to rely on the people in widely promoting unity among the compatriots of various strata—workers, peasants, intellectuals, businessmen, youths, women, elderly people, war veterans, retired cadres, people of various religious affiliations and various ethnic groups such as those of Vietnamese and Chinese origins, teenagers, children, and overseas Vietnamese nationals—the city that bears the name of Uncle Ho has upheld the spirit of solidarity in the cause of advancing the country toward socialism with the motto of remaining united in the renovation and remaining united for the sake of the renovation.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, I warmly hail the patriotism, the persistent revolutionary tradition, the unity, and the achievements of the party organization and people of Ho Chi Minh City over the years.

Dear comrades, with a sense of responsibility as communists before the party and people, besides those achievements already gained, you, comrades, can also easily realize that there remain certain aspects of work which we have not yet done well, given the great latent potential of the city.

We need to first look at those subjective reasons as cited in the views contributed by various party cadres and members, by elderly comrades, by the representatives of the people of various strata, by the members of the Fatherland Front, and by various intellectuals, writers, and artists to the draft documents of this party organization congress. These views provided many heartfelt and accurate assessments pointing out that we have failed to clearly realize the two-tiered policy of the market mechanism, failed to anticipate the contingencies, and failed to adequately prepare conditions for embarking on the market economy to develop its positive and dynamic aspects and contain its negatively spontaneous aspects. The state management over such a large city as ours is still not up to date. As a city with its commodity-based economic growth rate higher than that of other localities in the country and with its intensive market transactions at home and abroad, the local party organization should pay greatest attention to providing political, educational, and ethical training to various party organizations and every party cadre and member.

With its determination enhanced by its freshly-gained knowledge and qualifications, the city has gained greater achievements in the struggle against negative phenomena—the ills of corruption, bribery, smuggling, and counterfeiting goods; the collapse of credit organizations; cases that involve great losses of the state and the people's property; negligence in economic dealings with foreign countries; and indications of wrongdoings in cultural, information, and press management, including cultural cooperation and service with foreign countries. The city has allowed the commercialization of cultural activities to occur and its acquisition of foreign culture has lacked selectiveness, thus eroding the cultural identity of the nation and its ethics and traditions. Those views scrupulously contributed by you, comrades, and by the compatriots on state management have served as a heartfelt reminder to our party cadres and members to help firmly safeguard national defense and security and maintain discipline and laws; severely punish law offenders, corrupt officials, and those who bully the people; fight against the bad practice of providing umbrella-like protection for cronies; and keep the party mechanism clean and steadfast.

All these views speak for the people's ardent desire for a stable and prosperous life in which all citizen's rights are guaranteed and democratization is carried out widely and scrupulously.

From the forum of the city party organization congress, I would like to remind the city of its role as an industrial metropolis with a large number of working-class people. It should be admitted that the party's infrastructure among the working class is not strong enough, that the working class conceptions of the party have not yet been adquately enhanced, and that efforts to build the working class and organize party work among workers are still weak. The role of the working class can never fade away in the face of the commodity-based production system and the market-oriented economic mechanism. Instead, the new conditions arising from socialist construction require that we consolidate and uphold the role and position of the working class.

It is our party which, basing itself on the standpoint of the working class and representing the interests of the laboring people, has adopted a multisectoral commodity-based economic policy as it is applying the market-oriented economic mechanism. It is precisely due to this that the party organization has promoted the alliance among workers, peasants, and intellectuals and has developed the great latent potential of the intellectuals in carrying out various national policies on education and training, and science and technology. And it is precisely due to its working-class standpoint that the party organization should renovate itself and intensify its leadership over various mass organizations if these social organizations are to be diversified to reflect the special features of a large metropolis.

Here I would like to remind you of cadre training. The contingent of the city's dynamic and flexible cadres has been constantly replenished with youths from the actual revolutionary movement. Many of them have matured very quickly. In cadre-related work, the city has failed to bring itself up to the new situation as there remain many pressing problems to be solved, ranging from planning to the arrangement of cadres, including those inside and outside the party and those coming from different sources. The city should strive to make every cadre a loyal and persistent fighter and a creative talent ready to devote himself to the people's cause.

Far from causing the enthusiasm of cadres to wear down, the city's commodity-based economic development policy has made cadres more steady, versatile, creative, and capable of rallying greater public support. In carrying out cadre-related work, we need a broad and scientific vision. In personnel recruitment we should select loyal, competent, ethical, and reality-hardened people to meet requirements arising from our revolutionary tasks. All indications of opportunism, localism, parochialism, and nepotism should face criticism.

One of the weaknesses of the city party organization's work performance is that it has failed to review its experiences in various aspects of work. Its activities are large in substance but poor in quality.

If systematically exploited, that experience drawn from reality by Ho Chi Minh City will help the leadership skills of the party organization and will, at the same time, contribute to the fatherland's vault of collective experiences.

Reviewing experiences on activities will help us discover problems to be solved and find out what is strong and what is weak, what is right and what is wrong to struggle to overcome these things through criticism and self-criticism. By so doing, we will be able to improve the knowledge of party cadres and members, discover good cadres, remove those degraded and deviant elements, consolidate our ranks, and improve cadres' knowledge and revolutionary ethics.

Responsibility for the city's weaknesses and shortcomings rests partially with the central government. The macroeconomic management of the city, especially the management over banking, financial, and social welfare activities, as well as other activities of the central-level sectors, should be improved in accordance with a renovative spirit to create favorable conditions for local industry development under an integrated national economy. Simultaneously, it is necessary to restore public order, firmly safeguard the law, and maintain public discipline.

Central level sectors in the city and the city itself should pay attention to ironing out difficulties and overcoming obstacles. It is our major goal at present to strive to promptly tide the country over the current socioeconomic crisis for the sake of the future of the Vietnamese nation. All activities of various echelons and sectors in the country should be guided along this direction.

Dear comrades, the primary duty of the Ho Chi Minh City's party organization congress is to thoroughly understand the seventh party congress resolution in order to define the political task of the party organization; build a clean, firm, and strong party attached to the people; and bring into play the central role of the city in the new situation.

Ho Chi Minh City is a major economic, cultural, technological and international exchange center, and a major communications terminal. The city's economy is closely linked to a rich agro-forest-fishery products region with a developing industry. The area has great labor and land resource which assures the city of a rear base abounding in grain, food, agricultural products, and raw materials. The development of the oil and gas industry will open great prospects for the city's industrial and service sectors. The city, of course, has its own difficulties and complexities in the political, economic, cultural, national defense, and security domains. Nevertheless, generally, no other city in our country could have assembled such great advantages and potential.

The party's renovation line has given us additional knowledge. Yet it has required us to bring into play the central role of the city in developing the multisectorial commodity economy that evolves along a market-oriented mechanism under state management control and the socialist direction.

To fulfill this requirement, the city should decide on a rational economic structure that will turn out abundant and diverse products of good quality productively and efficiently.

The city should harness its strengths and attract regional sources of raw materials to develop the agro-forest-fishery products industry and the consumer goods industry. This is to meet domestic demand, substitute a considerable portion of imports and heighten production standards for export.

At the same time, it should pay due attention to the development of manufacturing industries, especially engineering and electronics. It should surge forward in turning out production means and be capable of equipping and reequipping itself and the entire region, especially in supporting regional agriculture, forestry, and fishery. It should pay attention to the development of processing industries such as its agro-forestry-fishery industry and the consumer goods industry. The city should upgrade and build more infrastructure.

Agriculture in our country, especially in the south, is shifting rapidly to the agriculture of commodities along the line of comprehensive development, taking productivity, quality and efficiency as a gauge. As a result, it requires that we advance toward systematizing water conservancy, mechanizing and electrifying agriculture, and turning agriculture into a bio-chemical science. To this end, we should, on the one hand, clearly define the guidelines for shifting the city's economic structure as stated above. On the other, we should pay attention to reequipping and renovating industry and promptly overcome the prolonged backward state of industry to meet the requirments of developing the agriculture of commodities at present and, especially in the coming years, of the entire region including the city's suburbs. At the same time, along with making the most use of equipment currently on hand and traditional industries, we should boldly apply scientific innovations and new technologies to upgrade industry and meet the city industry's requirements for development.

Developing the structures of production, trades, sectors, and industries along the above-mentioned guidelines is mainly to create the city's attractiveness to other localities in the entire region, and to lay a firm foundation for the city to play its role of an economic center in the region and the entire country.

Evidently, due to its important and favorable position, the city should continually develop its services ranging from the supply of raw and other materials for production to commercial services, product consumption, financial and banking services, information, investment, export-import, and public relations, and tourism. This is to support its production and the entire region.

In the market mechanism, what should be recognized is the city's relationship with other cities in the region. It must be equal, mutually beneficial, reliable, and cooperative to promote mutual growth and development. This relationship is significant in strengthening the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance, and it will help the Mekong Delta and the entire former B-2 zone to progress. This is the duty and responsibility of the city, the region, and the entire country.

Every comrade of the city party organization, in the framework of his duty, must strive to creatively find ways and means to satisfactorily help the city develop its role as a center for building a prosperous and strong nation for our people. I hope that the Mekong River Delta, the eastern region of Nam Bo, and the central highlands will vigorously develop effective cooperation relations with Ho Chi Minh City and other regions of the country.

Our main objective is to vigorously develop the multisectorial economy in accordance with the law. This is one of the main features of our economic policy and structure. It is the feature of great significance to Ho Chi Minh City where there is great potential in manpower, capital, and the production of goods in diversified forms.

The assets among the city's people of several strata are great. If they could be exploited properly and invested wisely the socioeconomic development rates of the city could increase several times. We encourage everyone to invest in developing production and business and to become rich legitimately, ensuring true equality before the law in all economic sectors. However, the commodity economy must develop healthily. It is necessary to eliminate the prevalence of individuals under state protection engaging in illicit business, and dodging and cheating on taxes. This situation is at variance with the policy on the multisectorial economy. It has upset discipline and order, negatively affected social life, and restricted the development of the economy.

The city party organization should attentively lead in reorganizing the state-run economy to consolidate and increase its effectiveness. State economic installations include both the local and centrally-owned ones in the city. These must all be reorganized and be run profitably according to law and discipline. Prolonged losses must end. The increase in productivity and efficiency must be higher than increases in income. Only in this way can the state- run economy progress and maintain its leading role. As a result, we must seriously review the state-run economy and take measures to fundamentally improve it.

We attach much importance to developing the state capitalist economy as well as cooperation economy in diversified forms on the principle of spontaneity, not the old form of cooperation. I would like to say that forms of cooperation in agriculture with new contents have emerged; therefore, you comrades should study and draw on experience to expand them.

We encourage individual capitalists to develop production and business for the interest of national welfare and the people's livelihood. We also encourage organizations, corporations, foreigners, and overseas Vietnamese to invest in production and business in Vietnam in accordance with the law already promulgated on foreign investment in Vietnam.

It can be said that our economy at present is functioning in accordance with the "open" mechanism. In other words, we may say that it opens opportunities for all economic components and individuals who have the capability to do business to become rich to gradually reduce the number of poor households and eventually eliminate them all. It also opens the door to promote relations and economic cooperation with countries in the world on the principle of equality, mutual interest, and respect for each other's independence and sovereignty.

The open mechanism must complement state management. Since our country is still very poor, together with developing production and business, we should practice thrift and treat it as a national policy. We must be thrifty in both production and consumption. We must economize on raw and other materials, and reduce the cost of production and distribution to lower total production cost. We must forbid the misappropriation of public assets and the use of state funds to buy wasteful, luxurious gifts.

All party committee echelons, administrative organs, and the people must keep an eye on and take stern measures against these phenomena. All individuals, families, and establishments should practice thrift and invest in production and business operations to benefit national construction. It is necessary to educate and encourage everyone to use homemade products. Also, our country often experiences losses caused by natural diasters. Therefore, efforts should be made to raise funds to prevent natural disaters, thus creating conditions for assisting those localities that experience difficulties or lag behind in development due to unfavorable circumstances.

On this occasion, I would like to convey the party Central Committee's kind regards to countrymen who experienced recent flash floods in the Mekong River Delta. I also welcome assistance made by the city and other provinces to these people. I hope that countrymen throughout the country will enhance the spirit of mutual affection to continue to assist people in areas with natural calamity to quickly overcome difficulties and restore their daily life. While engaging in economic development, we should pay attention to implementing social welfare work, enhancing the people's good health and intelligence, resolving the unemployment problem, caring for those who have given the revolution meritorious service, opposing social vices, and protecting the environment.

Dear comrades, the Ho Chi Minh City party organization underwent many ordeals during the years of revolutionary struggle and war of resistance. Today, the city plays an important role in the economic struggle. As a result, the party organization must strive to strengthen itself to implement the renovation undertaking, shift to the commodity-based economy, build socialist democracy and the nation in the transition period toward socialism, and persistently oppose the hostile forces' dark schemes aimed at undermining our nation. It is noteworthy that these ordeals have matured the contingent of party members in the city and they are loyal to the party, people, and Uncle Ho's ideal. The achievements scored by the city during the past years were in close association with great contributions made by the city party organization under the leadership of the party Central Committee.

However, the role of the party organization changes and develops in accordance with new requirements of the revolution and aspirations of the people. Only by consistently enhancing the capability, intelligence, and quality of the entire party organization and each individual party member will we be able to help the party organization to surge forward to meet great requirements of the revolution in the new stage.

Efforts to strengthen the party and forge its members, under any circumstances, must be made on the basis of building a pure, strong party.

I have learned that during its past term implementing the party Central Committee's directive, the city party organization has adopted measures to consolidate party installations and has scored initial results. That's great! Keep up the good work, comrades!

Moreover, it must be noted that a number of comrades have failed to overcome challenges, becoming degraded and deviant and causing the people's confidence in the party to weaken. Many party installations remain weak and even fail to firmly grasp the tasks and leadership orientations set forth by the party to cope with the new situation. At present, it is urgently important that each party member's revolutionary fighting spirit be increased and that each party installation's militancy be consolidated and enhanced.

Our party's organizational system asserts that basic party organizations are the organs that directly engage in struggles, stay close to the people, and motivate them to implement the party lines and policies. Results in turning the party's correct lines and policies into reality depend on the capability of basic party organizations and the party members' vanguard and exemplary role as well as their ability to motivate the people. Each party organization must firmly grasp the party's stand and concept as well as the state's lines and policies, clearly understand the state law, develop the democratic spirit, and correctly assert and satisfactorily lead the implementation of the political task of party organiazation. The most important thing is to maintain the close relationship between basic party organizations and party members and the people. The party must fully understand the people's aspirations, help improve the conditions of their material and spiritual life, and make them clearly understand all party policies and enthusiastically respond to the mass movement to perform realistic revolutionary deeds. The attachment between the party and people constitutes the base of the revolutionary undertaking. Therefore, all party members must make efforts to consolidate that base. The mass mobilization task must be renovated and strengthened in accordance with basic concepts condensed in resolution of the eighth plenum of the sixth party Central Committee. Each party member must concretely carry out the motto that the party is for the people, the people are for the party, thus upholding the party's sacred objective and principle.

The party serves no interests other than the people's interests. Let party members follow the example set by Uncle Ho by showing genuine respect for the people, listening to their opinions, and guarding themselves against the evils of bureaucratism, officialism, lack of democracy toward the masses, and other practices likely to cause inconveniences to the people. Party members are not allowed to have any special privileges. Each party member must set a good example and enthusiastically respond to the movement against corruption, bribetaking, officialism, extravagance, spendthrift behavior, negativism, and violations of law because these are all contrary to the party's ideals and the people's moral ethics.

Each party member must strive to positively carry out the social welfare work, maintain close relations with the people, and organize mass and social activities based on the people's practical interests.

We must strive to broaden democracy, create favorable conditions for the people to participate in the party building task and contribute ideas to party activities, especially in building basic party organizations. We must also create conditions for the people to participate in state management through people-elected agencies and mass organizations. When the party and the people can integrate into a firm bloc at the grass-roots level, it will become a powerful strength, invincible to all schemes and forces.

The city party organization must take concrete measures to strengthen ideological and organizational work aimed at making all party members and people understand that it is of the utmost importance now to devote efforts to making the people rich and the country powerful as well as to firmly defending the beloved fatherland. It is necessary to see to it that ideological work helps uphold everyone's love for the country and socialism, and helps generate confidence in our nation's socialist path as well as in Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh thought, and the renovation undertaking. At present, good implementation of ideological work means the ability to work out concrete measures to make the people rich and the country powerful. It is necessary to fully understand the motto of everything for the people; accelerate the renovation undertaking; firmly maintain political stability to benefit development; and resolutely oppose bureaucratism, conservatism, and sluggishness. At the same time, firm measures must be taken against all indications of opportunism and alienation from the goals of national independence and socialism, as well as all indications of deviation and extremism. Ideological work must be effective enough to cope with the increasingly sophisticated and pernicious arguments being used by hostile forces to distort the truth, sow disunity, and create instigation. So, the party organization must consolidate its force in charge of ideological tasks and most satisfactorily organize its ideological battlefront. Yet, the ideological task is not merely the work of party committees and propaganda sectors. It is the routine work of all party members in charge of various tasks of the party, the front, the state and mass organizations in street blocks and work areas. We must know how to use the strength of all non-party cadres and large numbers of people. The struggle against the forces that obstruct our people's advance to socialism also involves the economic domain. As a result, we should prevent and overcome the trend for economic results alone which has appeared quite frequently among cadres, especially those who directly manage production and business. Now we understand all the better Uncle Ho's teaching: "There must be socialist men to build socialism." Party members and cadres must strive to become socialist men. The party's organizational and cadre tasks demand outstanding efforts on our part. The party organization must be clean, firm, and strong. It must have the ability and wisdom commensurate with the revolutionary task. The principle of democratic centralism is our organization's source of strength. The shifting of the economy to the market-oriented mechanism poses a series of new problems for organizational work. Party organizations and, in a broad sense, state apparatuses and mass societies, must renovate their thinking and workstyle and must be strong enough to develop the positive factors of the market-oriented mechanism and reduce and eliminate its negative factors. Party organizations must be strong and capable of correctly resolving a series of new problems arising from the eventful and complicated world developments. Regarding cadre-related work, measures must be taken to secure continuity and successiveness. Steps must be taken to combine the training, improvement, and promotion of young cadres with the assignment of cadres who have grown up from the previous stages. It is important to attach importance to the experiences of veteran comrades. Attention must also be paid to the training and improvement of female cadres.

I would like to say something about renovating party leadership related to the entire process of renovating the political system. The party must very attentively lead the renovation of the political system in our country which is in fact the achievement of socialist democracy. It must continue to bring into play the people's right to mastery which is institutionalized into law and implemented within the legal framework. Our party is part and parcel and a leading nucleus of the political system. First of all, the party must renovate and reorganize itself to raise the standard of its intellectual ability and leadership, especially political leadership, over the economic, social, cultural, educational, scientific, artistic, national defense, and security fields. The entire party with all its organizations and members is faced with such demands. Only by doing so, can our party strengthen its close relationship with the people and lead the people in exercising their mastery in an adequate and steady manner.

Under the system of party organizations exerting leadership over administrative bodies, party organizations' leadership efficiency is reflected first of all through the work efficiency of people's councils, people's committees, fatherland front committees, and mass societies.

Regarding the handling of administrative affairs, extremely deep intervention or lack of close leadership by party committee echelons will bring bad results. One of the very important tasks for local party organizations is to recommend that outstanding cadres take charge of state agencies and mass organizations.

The party must exert close leadership over the implementation of national defense and security work and must educate all party members and people about the need to heighten vigilance. This is to firmly maintain the fatherland's independence and sovereignty; guarantee political stability and public order; firmly maintain discipline and uphold the law; secure peace, stability, and the right of mastery of the people; and oppose all forces blocking our people's national construction cause and advance toward socialism.

Dear comrades, renovation is being undertaken in our country as the international situation develops in a very complex manner. Besides current and future opportunities we should take the most advantage of, we must also strenuously overcome difficulties and challenges.

Socialism is currently facing an overall and profound crisis. The socialist system in the USSR no longer exists. The activities of the Soviet Communist Party have been cancelled. This is the greatest loss to the Soviet people and Communist Party, to international worker's and communist movements, and world revolutionary and progressive forces. Reactionary forces are intensifying their attacks to eliminate socialism in the remaining countries. Many are therefore worried whether our country can stand firm and continue on its socialist path.

In answering that question, we confirm that our country will certainly stand firm and continue to develop for the following reasons:

First of all, over the last half a century our people have answered the appeals of the party and Uncle Ho to fight long wars full of sacrifice and hardship and to successfully implement the party's lines of "Long Struggles Certainly Lead to Victories" and "Independence and Unity Will Certainly Be Successful."

Now, whatever form the new struggle takes, our people—who control their own destiny—will protect our revolution's results with determination. They will not allow any force to destroy those results, and will implement Uncle Ho's teaching "There Is Nothing More Precious Than Independence and Freedom." We will sacrifice everything and will not accept the loss of our nation or be slaves.

After many years of fighting for freedom and independence, our people's steel-like will and earnest aspiration are to maintain stability to build the country and to bring happiness to ourselves and our descendants.

Looking back at thousands of years of history in building and maintaining our homeland makes us believe more in the will, character, and tradition of our Vietnamese people. We have always stood firmly on our feet and have progressed with our hands and minds. We have built up our country from ancient times mainly through our own efforts, and will continue to do so from now on.

History shows that our people's fate and our nation's existence and development depend on our decisions. We will not let them be decided by external forces.

Second, real challenges are before us. We basically entered the year 1991 without any possible sources of aid. But our people have striven to overcome difficulties and challenges. We have not only stabilized production and livelihood, but have also developed and improved in some respects. Recent important achievements have proven that.

Of paramount importance, we have stabilized and fulfilled the need for food in the country despite past food scarcity and the natural disasters affecting many localities this year. Moreover, we were able to export food.

We have progressed in other areas too. We have begun to gain experience in doing business under new circumstances, and we are striving to create conditions to enter 1992 more confidently.

With this year's achievements and the preparation for next year, we believe our economy and society will advance many new steps in implementing the Seventh National Party Congress resolutions.

Third, the renovation we have carried out since the sixth national party congress is basically correct in direction, steps, and measures. The renovation was collectively accepted by the party and people and has been enthusiastically implemented. The multisectional commodity economy is developing, people's lives have improved or stabilized, political stability has been maintained, and democracy has developed gradually.

We are proceeding with political reform with the correct steps and measures. This is being done by preparing the constitution to stipulate the party's leadership role, renewing state management, and gradually building the juridical state. Democracy has also developed more broadly each passing day. Discipline is being maintained, and this meets the requirements of the new situation. With this, the superstructure has become gradually more suited to the infrastructure, and the renovation is brought to a higher level and becomes more profound and complete in content. That is also the basis for stabilizing the country. Stability is maintained for renovation, and renovation is undertaken for more stability.

It is possible to say that the renovation which we began on time—if we do not want to say that it started fairly early—in an appropriate direction, with steps and measures as well as the precious experience gained during its implementation, is the most important condition guaranteeing that our nation stands firmly against any challenge. It also gives us the great advantage to continue developing.

Fourth, the line of national independence and socialism, which has been implemented resolutely by our people so far, is similar to the natural law of evolution. National independence and socialism are the inevitabilities of history that all countries and nations will achieve sooner or later. All great world revolutions have experienced failures before they were successful in the end. The new situation is similar to the law of nature, despite the fact that it faced obstacles. In the end, the new will replace the old.

Our revolution over the past half a century has experienced its ups and downs and has faced ferocious challenges. At times it had to step back and face failure, but finally it gained glamorous victories. The country was liberated, independent, free, and united. It moved into the transitional period to socialism. In building socialism, we committed mistakes of dogmatism, voluntarism, and applied the wrong socialist models. But since the sixth national party congress and after finding out about our earlier shortcomings, we tried to correct them and began the renovation. At the seventh national party congress, we continued to confirm and develop the renovation, strengthen the people's trust, and gathered the people's force to continue to advance the revolution. Enthusiam and pride are suitable responses to the initial successes of the past few years.

Considering the above reasons, we confirm that our party and people will certainly to overcome challenges in the new situation, stand firmly, and continue to advance the nation on the socialist path chosen by the party, Uncle Ho, and our people.

Of course, this is not the old model of socialism. We have to continually study, research, and draw from experience so that we can gradually build up new socialist concepts. On that basis, we will define a correct socialism model, and one that works for the true happiness of our people.

The above reasons have consolidated our confidence. Yet, we have to act to bring them to bear. We must organize and consolidate the party from the centre down to the grass roots, making it truly clean, firm and strong; intensify the solidarity bloc of all party members, people and troops, and international solidarity as well; and continue to accelerate comprehensive renovation in the right direction in suitable steps. Only through action can we stand firm and continue to advance. As such, the answer to the question does not rest with the central echelon only. Rather, it is the work of all party members and organizations including the Ho Chi Minh City party organization and the city's party members.

National construction and defense is an undertaking of all people. The revolution is staged by the entire party, and each party organization and member. Evidently, the party central committee, political bureau and secretariat have to assume great responsibilities. Nevertheless, the revolution is always an undertaking of all people and party members. As a result, the question is primarily for each of you to answer.

It is our decision to stand firm, advance, and stabilize our country. It is the decision of all party members, people and troops, and all party committees who have to display extraordinary efforts to contribute to the common cause.

In this congress, I propose that you will debate the burning issues very closely, analyze and consider the facts scrupulously. That is the practical way come up with an answer during the congress and to initiate action after the congress.

Experience has shown that instability usually stem from within the party. Division among party members will divert the people. Party weakness will erode the people's confidence. Then, it will be an opportunity for hostile forces to prevail upon it and carry out their peaceful evolution and instigate internal rebellion and subversion.

As a result, more than ever before, the party-building issues that I mentioned above are currently the pressing tasks of our party. We have to determine our lines correctly, define our guidelines and tasks clearly, and take accurate steps. We have to intensify solidarity and unity within the party on the strength of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, and most sastisfactorily implement the principles of democratic centralization in party life activities. We have to resolutely oppose opportunism, factionalism, division, corruption, arrogance, and authoritarianism, which distance the people. We must resolutely build a clean, firm and strong party, and dismiss all degenerate and deviant elements. The people are very fair. If we commit mistakes out of good intentions, they will understand and readily share their views with the party to correct the mistakes. However, if we purposely take advantage of the imperfection of the mechanism to seek personal profits, the people will be displeased and not overlook it.

In the struggle to purify and strengthen the party, you, comrades, always have the party Central Committee, Political Bureau, and Secretariat at your side. Although the state will perfect the new mechanism gradually, the main task still rests with you. Only by making healthy changes within the party, can we consolidate the people's confidence. We must educate ouselves before educating others.

To positively participate in building the party, each of our party members should reflect on what he must do and how he must live and forge his qualities to make the party clean, firm, strong, and capable of leading the people through thick and thin, and to stabilize and develop the country. Real work and action is the pivot in party building at present, especially in building clean, firm, and strong party organizations.

Dear comrades, in thoroughly understanding the lines in the seventh party congress resolution to create a favorable international environment for national construction, we have implemented a principled yet flexible foreign policy in the spirit of independence and sovereignty to diversify international relations by combining national strength with epochal strength, domestic force with international force, and traditional factors with modern factors.

We are pleased to see that the recent official and friendly visit to Vietnam by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, has created a step further in the development of the special Vietnam-Laos relations of friendship and solidarity and has intensified cooperation in all fields according to new procedures.

Our people have wholeheartedly helped the Cambodian people and have made important contributions to the process leading to a peaceful solution to the Cambodian issue. We have always supported the Cambodian people's party; expressed our friendship with the Cambodian people; and asserted our stand to develop good relations with a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia having good relations with neighboring countries.

The agreement on an overall political solution to the Cambodia issue will be signed soon. We expect that this agreement will be based on respect for the sovereignty of Cambodia and its neighboring countries, and for the UN Charter.

The Vietnamese people have always treasured friendship with the Soviet Union and are forever grateful to the Soviet people for their wholehearted help in the Vietnamese revolution. We continue to maintain relations with the Soviet Union at the state level on the principles of mutual benefits, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Along with our relations with the union, we will expand our relations, especially economic relations, with all the republics.

The Vietnamese people are grateful to the Chinese people who assisted Vietnam in the struggle against imperialists and colonialists to regain national independence. We will develop our relations of friendship and good neighborliness on the principles of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, nonaggression against each other, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefits, and coexistence. The normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations responds to the fundamental aspirations of the two peoples and, at the same time, contributes to peace, stability and coopereation in the region and the world over.

Cuba is in a particularly difficult situation. We welcome the stalwart combat spirit of the Cuban people and communists in their struggle against all hostile forces that are threatening Cuba and we will strengthen our solidarity with Cuba and intensify our mutual support.

Vietnam's relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are developing satisfactorily.

We will continue to maintain our relations with East European countries at the state level and will strive to restore economic and trade relations with them.

Vietnam's friendship with India has been consolidated and the economic cooperation between the two countries continues to develop.

We are keen to expand our relations with Southeast Asian countries and ASEAN countries, considering it an important regional policy.

We continue to advocate the policy of normalizing relations with the United States. Yet, it is regrettable that so far the United States has not shown any goodwill and continues to implement its embargo against Vietnam.

We continue to develop our relations with West and North European countries and Australia, and improve our relations with Japan.

We will maintain and expand relations with all the communist and workers parties and all the revolutionary and national independence movements, and will continue our relations with some social and democratic socialist parties, thus making positive contributions to the struggle for peace, independence, and social progress in the world. We persist in implementing the lines set forth by the seventh party congress: "With our wide-open foreign policy, we declare: Vietnam wants to befriend all countries in the world and struggle for peace, independence, and development."

Dear comrades, allow me to repeat once more that the fifth congress of the Ho Chi Minh City party organization is of great importance to the city's development. Your duties are therefore very weighty. I expect that you will uphold your sense of responsibility to the party and people, thoroughly understand the seventh party congress resolution with its guidelines for wisdom-renovation-democracy-discipline and solidarity, adopt a correct resolution of your own, and elect a new executive committee for the party organization in response to the expectations of the entire party organization and people of the city.

The party Central Committee, all party members, and the people nationwide earnestly expect the party organization and people of the city honorably bearing our beloved Uncle Ho's name to proceed steadily on the chosen path, bring into play the role of an urban center, and together with the entire country make the people rich and the country strong.

May the congress be a success!

I wish Comrade Advisor Nguyen Van Linh good health!

I wish all veteran revolutionaries and you, delegates, good health!

Thank you comrades.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 19 Nov

BK1911080191 Hanoi VNA in English 0651 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 19—Frontpaged in Hanoi press today is an illustrated report on a reception here on Nov. 15 by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, of a delegation of the Harvard International Development Institute led by director Dr. Dwight Perkins.

Another frontpage report says that Premier Vo Van Kiet received here yesterday afternoon a visiting Australian trade delegation led by Minister for Trade and Overseas Development Neal Blewett during which the Vietnamese leader expressed his hope that the visit would strengthen the economic and trade ties between Vietnam and Australia in the interests of both peoples.

Premier Vo Van Kiet also received here the same day a visiting delegation of Malaysia's senate led by Speaker Datuk Chan Choong Tak. During the reception Premier Kiet praised Malaysia's achievements in national construction which, he said, bear great economic as well as political significance not only for Malaysia but also for the whole region, the papers report.

NHAN DAN carries a statute on export processing zone issued by the Council of Ministers recently.

Other reports are about an exhibition held in Ho Chi Minh City jointly by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the CP Exhibition Corporation of Hong Kong with the participation of 29 foreign companies, a get-together arranged by the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front on the 61st founding anniversary of the United National Front, and Vietnam's participation at a conference on archives of documents on architecture and maps held in Singapore.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is reported to have held a press conference in Phnom Penh on Nov 17 during which he said that the People's Party of Cambodia has come in alliance with the faction now headed by Prince Norodom Ranariddh. The objective of the alliance is to "maintain the nation's supreme interests," he stressed.

The English-language newspaper VIETNAM NEWS run an article on new trends in India-Vietnam commercial relations by the consul general of India in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr. H.V. Shringla.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 20 Nov

BK2111101191 Hanoi VNA in English 0611 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 20—Newspapers in Hanoi today frontpage illustrated reports on the opening session in Haiphong Port City on Nov. 18 of the 10th congress (second round) of the local party organization, which was attended by 427 delegates representing more than 70,000 party members in the city.

The papers publish in full party General Secretary Do Muoi's speech at the session, in which he stressed the need for Haiphong to build an economic structure with import and export as its key economic activities.

Also frontpaged is illustrated reports on the closing session yesterday of the 11th congress of the Hanoi party organisation with a 51-member executive committee elected.

State Council President Vo Chi Cong is reported to have received here yesterday the visiting Malaysian senatorial delegation led by speadker Dato Chan Choong Tak, and Premier Vo Van Kiet received here on Nov. 18 British Secretary of State for Energy John Wakeham.

The Kinhill Engineers Company of Australia and the Investment Consultation and Communications, Transport and Post Cooperation Corporation of Vietnam (INTECO) signed in Hanoi yesterday a cooperation agreement, and the French bank Indosuez has presented Vietnamese flood victims in Mekong River Delta with USD 8,000 the papers say.

On Vietnam's teachers day today, all newspapers carry reports on activities throughout the country to mark the event. NHAN DAN runs an editorial on the teacher's important role in educational development.

The English-language newspaper VIETNAM NEWS TODAY says that construction of the third hyro-electric power plant in southern Vietnam begins today at a site 160 kilimetres north of Ho Chi Minh City; the Mekong River Delta Province of An Giang harvested more than 1.5 million tons of rice this year, the record output so far; and that so far this year 700 people in the central province of Nghe An have been reported killed of malaria in comparison with 91 last year.

International news column includes a report on a tour of an orphanage in Kandal Province on Nov. 17 by Prince

Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council, and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia. The prince is reported to have welcomed efforts of the People's Party of Cambodia and the State of Cambodia Government in imporving the people's living conditions.